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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Give a little bit

Giving Tuesday, with its focus on charitable donations, aims to counter the mass consumerism of Black Friday PAGE 4

Get in the spirit

This town's not short on holiday entertainment, from Handel's Messiah to the one-man Santaland Diaries PAGE 27

MR. XU BLOWS SHANNON'S DOME

OUR TEMP HITS AN ALL-TIME LOW, DRIVING PAST STRIP MALLS AND INDUSTRIAL ZONES EN ROUTE TO AN ALL-TIME HIGH PAGE 25

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Surrey has asked the federal government for funding to build light-rail transit like Calgary's C-Train, pictured here. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO FILE

Surrey asks feds for LRT money

Transit. Requests to TransLink and province 'have been falling on deaf ears,' says councillor

Referendum

The province has promised to hold a referendum on transit funding no later than November 2014, but so far it has not offered any hints of what the question on the ballot might be.

Surrey is fed up with waiting for the province to get moving on transit funding and has applied to the federal government for $1.8 billion to build three new light-rail transit (LRT) lines south of the Fraser.

Coun. Tom Gill said Wednesday the city applied for the funds through Ottawa's New Building Canada Plan, which includes $47 billion in new money for public infrastructure over the next 10 years.

"There's no question that we want to work with TransLink and the province, but I think it's been very unfortunate that many of our requests have been falling on deaf ears on TransLink's end and the province's end," he told Metro.

"We are looking for opportunities to fund this significant proposal and we do feel that this opportunity likely is one of the best opportunities for us."

Surrey is at odds with the transportation authority over TransLink's position that a $2.2-billion SkyTrain line from King George station to Langley would deliver the most benefits to the region.

The city says for a similar sum it could build three LRT lines: one to Langley, one down 104th Avenue connecting the City Centre station to Guildford Town Centre, and one from King George to White Rock.

Gill could not say when he expects a response from Ottawa, but he said it's likely that if the application is successful, the feds would kick in only one-third of the requested sum and expect the province and TransLink to pony up the other two-thirds.

Vancouver Coun. Geoff Meggs called it an "interesting" move given that all transit projects are eligible for federal funding. He said Vancouver is working with TransLink to get rapid transit to UBC.

"We've been working hard through TransLink and through the Mayors' Council to try to establish a regional plan, and that's where our focus has been," he said.

TransLink spokeswoman Cindy Bromley would not say whether she thinks the application undermines TransLink's regional transportation strategy.

"We recognize that Surrey has a vision for its future including transit growth," she wrote in an email. "It is our responsibility as the regional transportation authority to look at the demands of the entire region and work with all municipalities on defining transportation solutions." KATE WEBB/METRO

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NEWS

Fun facts

Vancouver's proposed 2014 budget

Ever wonder how the city spends your money? Check out these fun facts from Vancouver's proposed 2014 budget.

– The city installed seven water fountains along pedestrian hot spots in 2013.

– If you watered your lawn at the wrong time (tsk, tsk), you were more likely to get a ticket in 2013. The city issued 50 tickets, up from four in 2012.

– Stanley Park's 125th birthday fête was attended by 50,000 folks in August. The city spent $250,000 on the party, with sponsors and other governments footing the rest of the $600,000 bill.

– To increase pedestrian safety, the city increased the amount of time to cross at 22 crosswalks this year. Unfortunately, 16 pedestrians were killed on the streets in 2013, two more than 2012.

– Golfers can access a smartphone app as of Jan. 1, 2014, that sends alerts when there are slow periods and available tee times on the city's three pitch-and-putts. The city hopes the app will boost revenue at the courses, which are now open year round.

– The city never ended up spending $1 million to install solar-powered compacting garbage cans it had planned for downtown.

– The city does, however, plan to install 800 metres of earthquake-proof water pipe from Japan. It's more expensive, but it would improve access to water in case the Big One hits.

– In 2014, the city plans to plant 10,600 street trees.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

All eyes were on Vancouver City Hall on Wednesday as the proposed 2014 budget was released. EMILY JACKSON/METRO FILE

Uncertainty around fire, police contracts

2014 budget. Historically, collective agreements have paid higher-than-average salaries and benefits

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

The single largest expense in the city — the payroll — is shaping up to get bigger.

To pay for this, Vancouver plans to raise property taxes 1.9 per cent, according to the proposed 2014 budget released Wednesday. For an average single-family home worth $1.3 million, that's about $47 per year.

Utility fees are also expected to increase by 2.7 per cent (about $65 for a similarly priced home) and user fees are slated to go up one per cent.

Vancouver is in the midst of negotiating new contracts with police officers and firefighters, where collective agreements have historically paid higher-than-average salaries and benefits.

If police and fire wage increases are in line with the CUPE raises, department expenditures would increase by 3.2 per cent and 4.7 per cent respectively. But since the contracts have yet to be settled, the city didn't include these jumps in its operating budget.

On top of these expected wage increases, the city hopes to boost its operating budget to $1.2 billion, $29.6 million more than it spent in 2013.

It also wants to increase its capital budget to $285 million from $272 million in 2013. A big chunk of this cash will go toward infrastructure projects such as water-pipe replacements and the Powell Street overpass.

According to a budget survey, opinion remains split over whether taxpayers are getting good value for their money.

Taxpayers pegged transportation issues, including bike lanes, traffic and parking, as their No. 1 priority. Considering the hubbub over bike lanes in 2013 — even though the city only added 10 kilometres to the bike network this year — it's no surprise that transportation tops the agenda.

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Balancing consumerism with goodwill

Giving Tuesday. More than 860 organizations taking part in anti-Black Friday charitable movement

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

If the hysteria around Black Friday shrivels your heart to a Grinch-like size, there may be day to warm your holiday soul.

Giving Tuesday, started last year in the U.S., is coming to Canada on Dec. 3 to balance consumerism with goodwill.

Marina Glogovac, of CanadaHelps.org, has recruited over 860 charities and businesses to get behind the initiative.

Organizations across the nation will be out in force driving donations and awareness for their various causes.

"It's been hugely successful in the States," said Glogovac. "It's a very grassroots movement with no vertical hierarchy. It's really just about raising awareness to charities and hopefully over the years when Giving Tuesday comes around, people are thinking about giving back on that day."

The campaign, like most in the modern era, will be heavily driven by social media, with the #givingtuesday hashtag serving as a gateway to hundreds of donation drives and charitable initiatives going on.

Even the corporate community is getting in on the giving spirit.

Interac, for instance, is willing to add up to $25 per donation (up to $5,000) made through givingtuesday.ca and CanadaHelps.org.

It's a small gesture, but Glogovac hopes it's one that will catch on.

"We'd really like to see some of these Black Friday retailers get involved and thinking about Giving Tuesday," she said. "Even just to raise awareness, if nothing else."

It sure beats irrational consumer rage and stampedes.

More than 800 Canadian charities and retailers, including a number in the Lower Mainland, will be taking to the streets on Giving Tuesday.
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Vernon. Murder charges against 95-year-old man with dementia dropped

Prosecutors in British Columbia have stayed a charge of second-degree murder against a 95-year-old dementia patient in the north Okanagan community of Vernon.

The province's Criminal Justice Branch announced Wednesday it was not in the public's interest to prosecute John "Jack" Daymouth Furman because of his physical health and advanced dementia, adding "steps have been taken to address any safety risk he might present."

Furman, who served during the Second World War, was accused of killing William "Bill" May, his 85-year-old roommate at a Vernon residential-care facility on Aug. 18.

"Mr. Furman is a 95-year-old man with severe dementia," said Crown lawyer Stephen Lawhead. "All of the available medical and psychiatric information indicates he is unable to stand trial, and that there is no reasonable chance he will ever be fit."

According to a statement issued by the Criminal Justice Branch, prosecutors apply a two-part test when assessing whether a criminal case will proceed: They must be satisfied there's a substantial likelihood of conviction, and the prosecution must be in the public interest.

The branch said Furman remains confused and disoriented about his current circumstances, as well as the circumstances surrounding the incident. It also says he is unlikely to improve.

Lawhead said Furman remains at a Kamloops psychiatric facility and will be for an undetermined time.

"I think care-home homicides are unusual, but they do happen and usually they involve people with dementia who are elderly, so in that sense it is not that unusual. It has happened before," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coquitlam

Two dead after hit-and-run

Police are investigating a collision that killed two people in Coquitlam Wednesday afternoon.

RCMP said a grey truck was turning onto Austin Avenue from Gatensbury Street when it struck two pedestrians shortly before 3:30 p.m. Both victims, who have yet to be identified, died on scene.

Police allege the driver fled the scene, but was found a short time later.

Few details have been released, and the collision is being investigated by the Coquitlam RCMP Traffic Services.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Kamloops

Chainsaw-wielding man given 2 years

A mentally ill Kamloops man who admitted to chasing people with a chainsaw has been sentenced to two years in jail.

Wyatt Proulx, 25, pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

The court heard that Proulx was at his uncle's home playing cards with two other people when an argument broke out.

Proulx used a chainsaw to cut through a chair held up in defence by one of the victims.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Councillor questions whether city can afford Bixi bike share

Green commute.
Motion claims service provider's financial trouble warrants review

EMILY JACKSON
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Two Vancouver councillors want to put the brakes on Vancouver's long-delayed bike-share system in light of financial troubles surrounding the service provider.

NPA Coun. George Affleck put forward a motion, seconded by NPA Coun. Elizabeth Ball, asking staff to review the financial viability of the bike-share system as the chosen service provider, Bixi, deals with money troubles.

Vancouver plans to spend $6 million to buy equipment from Bixi for a system that would be operated by Alta Bicycle Share. It would cost the city about $500,000 per year to operate the system going forward, but the majority of operating costs would be paid by Alta.

Affleck's motion states that since the city has a fiduciary responsibility to taxpayers, it should "immediately review" the program and report on all expenses related to implementing the system so far. For example, it spent $50,000 on a helmet-dispenser prototype it has since discarded.

Worth the risk?

$6M

The city plans to spend $6 million to buy equipment from Bixi that would then be operated by Alta Bicycle Share.

Bixi's liquidity problems stem from a busy summer rolling out systems in at least six major cities, according to the company's Facebook page. A Toronto city report stated Bixi is "insolvent or imminently insolvent due to the fact that revenues generated by the system have not been sufficient to cover costs."

Vancouver's bike-share system was supposed to hit the streets in spring 2013, but it has been delayed by Bixi's troubles. The delays stem from the city's refusal to budge on what it says is a strict business model that won't ding taxpayers for operating costs.

But the bike-share system is part of the city's transportation goals to get more people using greener methods of travel. The bike share would be part of the transit network.

Council is scheduled to vote on Affleck's motion next week.

Vancouver councillors are concerned that Bixi bikes could be a financial liability. HANNAH ZITNER/METRO FILE

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Kitsilano. New hovercraft replaces coast-guard station

A new hovercraft has arrived that was promised by the federal government to assuage anger over the closure of Vancouver's coast-guard station.

Fisheries Minister Gail Shea announced the arrival of the rescue craft Wednesday with little fanfare.

The vessel, to be stationed at the coast-guard base at Sea Island, near Richmond, was promised along with a three-person inshore rescue team at the Canadian Navy auxiliary base in Stanley Park following the closure of the Kitsilano station last spring. That station was among the busiest in the country, and the city's police and fire chiefs both asked the minister to keep it open.

But the closure was part of nearly $80 million in cuts to the coast-guard budget as part of overall reductions in federal spending.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

High-stakes hide and seek

Snoozing tot can't outfox police dog

The mother of a young boy has a police dog in Prince George to thank for tracking her five-year-old — or she could have waited until nap time was over.

The anxious mom called police when she couldn't find her son and concern grew as three RCMP officers searched the home unsuccessfully.

That's when Astro and his handler arrived, searched the perimeter and then moved inside, where the dog began indicating that someone was in the child's room.

RCMP Cpl. Craig Douglass says Astro focused on a six-drawer dresser that had already been moved by officers, but the dog stuck its head in one of the drawers. Since there was still no sign of the youngster, the handler began to remove the drawers, quickly revealing that the boy was snoozing under the drawers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. budget surplus up, jobs down: Q2 results

Report. Clark's goals are to place first or second nationally by 2015 in GDP growth, new-job growth

Job growth in British Columbia has stalled, but it's too early to call Premier Christy Clark's highly touted jobs plan a bust, Finance Minister Mike de Jong said Wednesday.

Finance Ministry data released Wednesday as part of the Liberal government's November second quarterly financial report show a job contraction of 0.1 per cent — totalling 2,600 fewer jobs — over the same period last year.

"We set more robust targets than what we achieved through 2013," de Jong said at a news conference at the B.C. legislature. "That's why I'm not hesitant to tell you our objectives are and remain to grow jobs, grow the economy, and the numbers you see for 2013, so far, fall short of where we'd like to be."

Clark's jobs plan, launched in the fall of 2011, was her government's major push to stimulate job creation, and included goals to strengthen infrastructure to get goods to markets and expand B.C. markets and services, especially in Asia.

"Our objectives remain to grow jobs and the economy," said de Jong. "At this stage of the game, employment growth in the 0.8 per cent and one per cent is achievable, but it's not something we've achieved thus far."

Opposition NDP finance critic Mike Farnworth said the jobs plan is a failure and thousands of British Columbians are fleeing the province in search of work.

"Look at the jobs plan and the employment numbers in this province, by their own admission, they're pathetic," he said.

B.C. Premier Christy Clark and finance minister Mike de Jong are seen in the legislature in February. They acknowledged on Wednesday falling short of growth goals for the second quarter. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Despite the flat job performance, de Jong's financial update, which marks the halfway point of the government's fiscal year, included a slightly improved budget surplus forecast from the summer. The Finance Ministry now is forecasting a surplus of $165 million. The minister said the revised upward surplus estimate includes $50 million taken from the government's forecast allowance, which serves as a buffer against economic and fiscal risks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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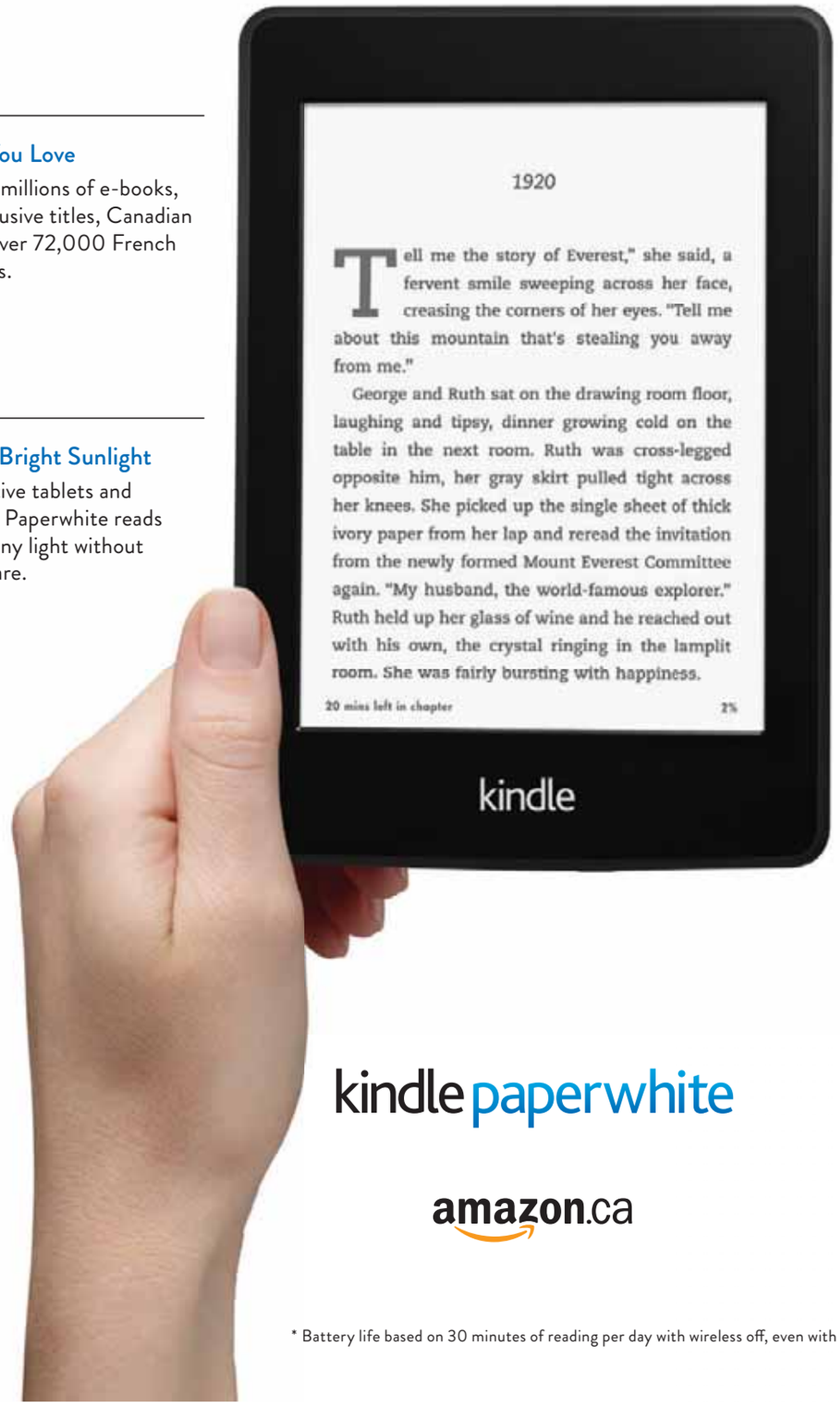
1920
Tell me the story of Everest," she said, a fervent smile sweeping across her face, creasing the corners of her eyes. "Tell me about this mountain that's stealing you away from me."
George and Ruth sat on the drawing room floor, laughing and tipsy, dinner growing cold on the table in the next room. Ruth was cross-legged opposite him, her gray skirt pulled tight across her knees. She picked up the single sheet of thick ivory paper from her lap and reread the invitation from the newly formed Mount Everest Committee again. "My husband, the world-famous explorer." Ruth held up her glass of wine and he reached out with his own, the crystal ringing in the lamplit room. She was fairly bursting with happiness.
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Now say it like you mean it.
Province plans to say sorry to Chinese citizens — again

The provincial government is once again trying to correct some historical wrongs committed against B.C.'s Chinese community.

An all-party apology over the Chinese head tax fell apart last March when news broke about a controversial ethnic-outreach strategy.

The strategy suggested formal apologies to ethnic communities for historic wrongs could result in quick wins at the ballot box.

But work has begun again on a new apology, with the Ministry of International Trade announcing it will host community forums to discuss the wording and delivery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

History

Canada started charging a head tax in the late 1800s to discourage Chinese immigration, an approach the B.C. government supported.

Old Island Highway

Crash leaves one dead, one injured

A 59-year-old man is dead and another man is in hospital after a head-on crash on the Old Island Highway near Campbell River.

Police say the accident happened Tuesday night when a 28-year-old man in a Volvo crossed the centre line and smashed into a Honda.

The driver of the Honda was pronounced dead at the scene. The Volvo driver remains in serious condition.

Both men are from the Campbell River area.

Police say they're investigating the possibility of speed and alcohol as contributing factors on the part of the Volvo driver. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Air India bomb builder appeals perjury sentence

Inderjit Singh Reyat pleaded guilty to manslaughter for supplying the Air India bomb parts and was convicted of perjury. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Nine years for 19 lies.
Lawyer argues that his client has already been severely punished

Air India bomb maker Inderjit Singh Reyat is remorseful about the deaths and gained nothing by lying during testimony against his co-accused, his lawyer told the B.C. Appeal Court.

Ian Donaldson said Wednesday those are good reasons to cut short Reyat's nine-year prison sentence for lying 19 times during the trial.

Unlike other serious perjury convictions, Reyat did not concoct a false tale to exonerate anyone, Donaldson told the three-member panel.

The lawyer said Reyat merely didn't tell the whole truth when he said, for example, he did not know the names of some key players believed to be involved.

Reyat — who has spent most of his adult life behind bars — was convicted of perjury in 2010 for his testimony as a Crown witness at the 2003 trial of Ripudamen Singh Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri.

Malik and Bagri were acquitted of mass murder and conspiracy charges in the 1985 bombing that sent the Air India jet into the Irish Sea, killing all 329 people aboard.

Reyat pleaded guilty to manslaughter for supplying the bombing parts.

Donaldson argued that Reyat has already been severely punished and was sorry about the deaths.

Justice Mary Saunders disagreed.

"We have a witness who is the only person in the criminal-justice system held to account for ... that bombing, and he refused to divulge information at a murder trial of this nature," she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Rob Ford. Judge allows for release of 'significant' new police drug-case data

More information on the "extensive" police investigation into disgraced Toronto Mayor Rob Ford should be released as it is of "very significant public interest," a judge ruled Wednesday.

Portions of the police document that were previously released showed former staffers alleged the mayor was intoxicated at work, drank while driving and associated with suspected prostitutes.

The document, containing allegations not proven in court, was filed in the drug case of Ford's friend Alessandro Lisi, though it mostly focuses on the mayor. The actual release is on hold until Dec. 6. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"The actions of the mayor are a matter of very significant public interest and concern."
Justice Ian Nordheimer

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has denied consorting with prostitutes and insists he is not an alcoholic or drug addict. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Generic 'hillbilly heroin' gets green light in Canada

Banned in U.S. Ottawa officials approve India drug maker's take on oxycodone, despite warnings from experts south of the border

Health Canada has approved a generic, more dangerous form of oxycodone just as U.S. officials urge their Canadian counterparts to ban such formulations of the painkiller — often called "hillbilly heroin."

The green light to Ranbaxy, India's biggest drug maker, came soon after Gil Kerlikowske, director of the White House Office of Drug Control Policy, reminded Health Minister Rona Ambrose of the dangers posed by generic forms of the opioid.

The U.S. has banned generic oxycodone because it's too easy for addicts to snort or inject. Only tamper-resistant forms of the drug can be sold.

American officials say the U.S. is dealing with a painkiller-abuse epidemic.

Health Canada defended itself, saying it "rigorously" assesses every drug's safety and efficacy.

"These decisions are made by experts in the department based on science; the minister is not consulted on day-to-day drug approvals," said spokesperson Leslie Meerburg.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oxycodone is often referred to as "hillbilly heroin." The U.S. is warning about its generic use. GRAEME ROY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fast facts

What you need to know about oxycodone:

- **What is it?** A powerful narcotic used to treat moderate to severe short-term or long-term pain, as well as to treat terminally ill patients.
- **What does it do?** It produces an opiate-like effect similar to morphine and can lead to abuse.
- **Brand names?** OxyContin, Percocet, Endocet, Oxycocet, Percodan, Endodan, Oxycodan, Supeudol, OxyIR, OxyNEO.
- **How is it abused?** Generic forms can be chewed or crushed, inhaled or injected.

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Ford shocks the sheriff

An American sheriff who has just charged a town mayor with drug offences said Wednesday it's a head-scratcher why the continent's most notorious crack smoker, Toronto's Rob Ford, is still in office.

Gordon Smith, a self-described politically incorrect sheriff from Bradford County in Florida, said he has watched the Ford scandal unfold with amazement.

"He's so flamboyant … he's kind of smearing it in Torontonians faces, saying, 'What are you going to do?'" Smith said from Starke, Fla.

Smith said he wouldn't put up with illicit drug activity, regardless of who is involved. "This isn't Toronto," he said.

"We will not tolerate illegal drug activity in my jurisdiction by anyone."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Beijing cracks down on pollution one barbecue grill at a time

China. Country's concern about particulate pollution from open-air barbecues criticized on social media sites

Beijing is waging a controversial war against air pollution.

Authorities in the capital have destroyed more than 500 open-air barbecues "to cut PM2.5" — the tiny particulate matter in the air that can enter deep into the lungs.

Photos carried by state media showed workers on Tuesday cutting pieces of metal with sparks flying as city wardens looked on.

Citizens online ridiculed the exercise, suggesting authorities should focus on bigger sources of pollution.

Chinese police observe as a worker breaks down confiscated open-air barbecues in Beijing's war to tame PM2.5 pollution. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A media officer at Beijing's Xicheng district administration bureau said the hundreds of barbecue grills were confiscated over a three-month campaign and cut up so they couldn't be used again. She refused to give her name, as is common with Chinese officials.

Environmental campaigner Ma Jun said residents had complained to environmental agencies about the odour and smoke from open-air barbecues. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Environmentalist says ...

Vehicle emissions 'should be priority'

"This action will help local residents, but to deal with the bigger air-quality problem we need to have priorities and I think one of the major priorities should still be the motor-vehicle emissions,'' said environmental campaigner Ma Jun.

He said the focus should be on improving the fuel quality and emissions control of heavy-duty diesel trucks, while involving surrounding regions, not just Beijing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Giant Louis Vuitton suitcase booted out of Red Square

Tourists and visitors pass by a two-storey Louis Vuitton suitcase erected near the Kremlin, right, in Moscow's Red Square, Wednesday. Politicians didn't like it, the public didn't like it, so the gigantic Louis Vuitton suitcase is being given the boot. The GUM department store on Red Square, left, which is responsible for the nine-metres high and 30-metres long construction, promised Wednesday that it would be dismantled. The construction is part of an exhibition called The Soul of Travel, marking Vuitton's 150th anniversary and was to open on Dec. 2. Louis Vuitton said the construction was a copy of a model owned by a Russian noble, Prince Vladimir Orlov. PAVEL GOLOVKIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlusconi kicked out of Italian Parliament

Not going quietly. Former premier has relaunched his Forza Italia party and he still commands millions of loyal supporters

The Italian Senate on Wednesday expelled three-time ex-premier Silvio Berlusconi from Parliament over his tax fraud conviction, ending his two-decade legislative run for now, but not his political career.

Berlusconi has warned that the unprecedented move would embarrass Italy internationally, and he maintained his defiance even as the Senate voted, addressing a cheering crowd outside of his Roman palazzo a short walk away.

Even though he won't hold a seat in Parliament for at least six years, the 77-year-old Berlusconi pledged to remain involved in politics and urged his followers not to despair — noting that other political leaders are not lawmakers.

Supporters, including Berlusconi's 28-year-old girlfriend, who had a Forza Italia flag wrapped around her shoulders against the cold, were treated to a video montage of Berlusconi's greatest political hits from a career that began in 1994 when he first came into power with a political party named for a soccer chant Let's Go Italy.

"For us, he will always be there," said Marilda Antonello as she held a banner reading "The law is not equal for everyone. Sick justice."

The Senate vote on whether to remove Berlusconi from the chamber stems from a 2012 law that bans anyone sentenced to more than two years in prison from holding or running for public office for six years. His lawyers claim the law is unconstitutional and have questioned why the rush to expel him while legal challenges are still pending.

Italy's high court on Aug. 1 upheld Berlusconi's tax fraud conviction and four-year prison term. The prison term was reduced automatically to one year under a general amnesty; he will serve his time either under house arrest or through public service.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bitter words

"We are here on a bitter day, a day of mourning for democracy."
Silvio Berlusconi

Silvio Berlusconi and his girlfriend Francesca Pascale leave after he addressed a rally in Rome, Wednesday. ROBERTO MONALDO, LAPRESSE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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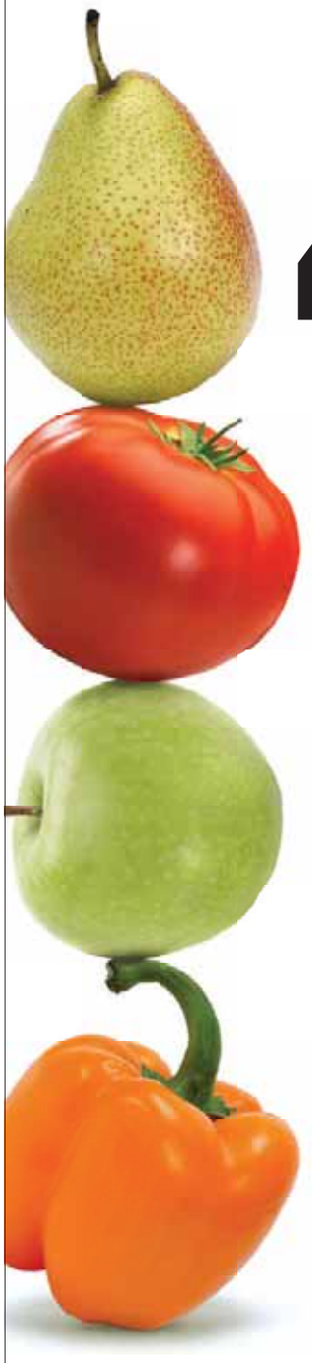

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People stand in front of a metal structure that buckled on part of the Itaquerao Stadium in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Part of the stadium that will host the 2014 World Cup opener collapsed on Wednesday, killing two people and causing significant damage, authorities said. NELSON ANTOINE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadly collapse hits World Cup opening venue

Brazil. The Sao Paulo stadium, which cost nearly $360 million, is expected to seat nearly 70,000 for the opener

Construction

It wasn't the first disaster related to World Cup stadiums in Brazil.

- One worker died during construction of a stadium in the capital Brasilia last year, and another worker was killed in the Manaus venue in March.
- In April, another worker died at the construction site of the new Palmeiras stadium.
- In Rio, the stadium that will host athletics in the 2016 Olympics has been closed for months because of fears its roof could collapse.

Part of the stadium that will host the 2014 World Cup opener collapsed Wednesday, killing two workers and aggravating already urgent concerns that Brazil won't be ready for soccer's signature tournament.

Brazil has been plagued by a series of setbacks including cost overruns, stadium delays, accidents, labour strife and massive street protests in the run-up to the June tournament, once envisioned as a coming-out party for South America's largest nation, which is also scheduled to host the Olympics in 2016.

Wednesday's accident at Sao Paulo's Itaquerao Stadium occurred when a construction crane crashed into a 500-ton metal structure that in turn cut through the outer walls of the venue.

Already, public prosecutors and a workers union in Sao Paulo are demanding an investigation into conditions at the venue.

Ricardo Trade, CEO of the local World Cup organizing committee, said authorities would determine if there is a need to suspend construction.

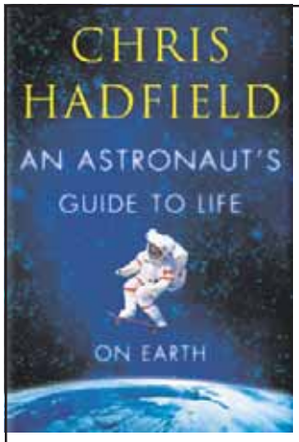
"There are seven months till the World Cup, not 10 days, so I don't believe this is going to cause delays. But there is absolutely no guarantee on this," Trade said in a telephone interview.

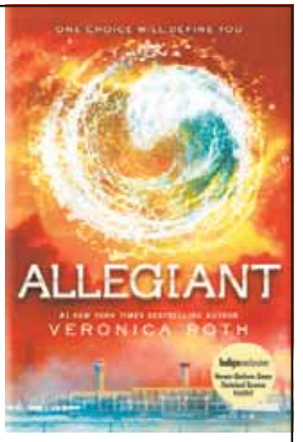
The accident could lead to recriminations between local organizers and world soccer organization FIFA, which has set a December deadline for all 12 World Cup stadiums to be ready. The tournament begins June 12.

"I don't want to know about FIFA right now; we are worried about the families of the victims," said Andres Sanchez, former president of the Sao Paulo soccer club Corinthians, which is building the stadium. The club said workers will not return before a three-day mourning period.

One of the workers, 42-year-old Fabio Luis Pereira, was inside a truck that was hit by the metal structure. The other, 44-year-old Ronaldo Oliveira dos Santos, was resting in an area that was supposed to be off-limits.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





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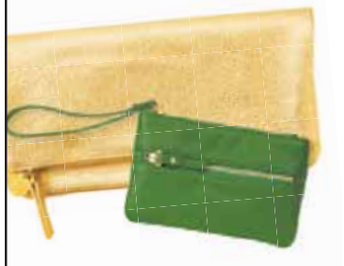

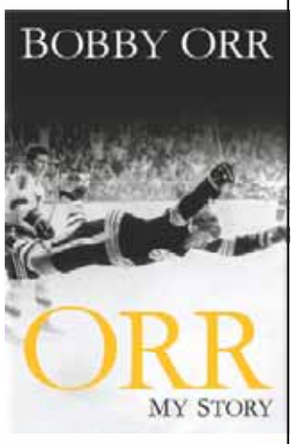

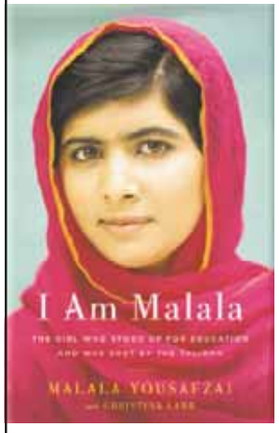

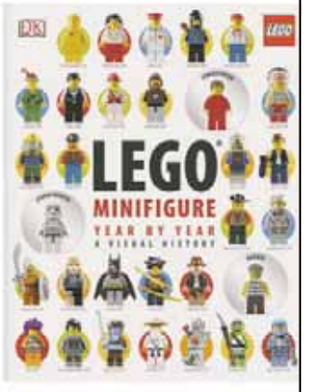

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Tough sentences handed down in Egypt's crackdown

Heavy hand. Situation threatens to fragment a coalition of liberal and secular groups that supported the military

A supporter of ousted president Morsi in the prisoner's dock in Alexandria. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egyptian authorities on Wednesday took a heavy hand against both Islamist and secular opponents, handing down heavy prison sentences to a group of female supporters of the ousted Islamist president — including teenagers as young as 15 — and ordering the detention of two dozen secular activists, all for participating in protests.

The moves mark what critics say is a bolder determination by Egypt's military-backed government to silence dissent, continuing a crackdown on Islamists since the military's ouster of President Mohammed Morsi, while suppressing secular activists who supported his removal but also accuse the new leadership of restoring a system as autocratic as Morsi's toppled predecessor, Hosni Mubarak.

Images from the courtroom in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria showed 21 young female defendants in white head scarves and white prison uniforms, handcuffed. Among them were seven teenagers aged 15 and 16, who were sentenced to prison terms until they turn 18. The rest — age 18 to 22 — were sentenced to 11 years in prison. A day earlier saw the beating and dragging of secular activists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Volcanic alert heightened

A worker who is covered with volcanic ash from an eruption of Mount Sinabung takes a break at a coffee plantation in Guru Kinayan, North Sumatra, Indonesia. Sinabung's alert status was raised to the highest level on Sunday after eruptions. BINSAR BAKKARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistan

Americans criticized over drone deaths

A Pakistani political party launched an attack on the CIA drone program on Wednesday, turning up the heat on an issue that the government in Islamabad has tried to manage without sparking a crisis with the U.S.

The party revealed what it said was the name of the CIA's top spy in the country and called for him to be tried for murder.

American missile attacks targeting Islamic militants in Pakistan's northwest have long been a source of tension.

Friction has increased recently with two especially contentious strikes: one killed the Pakistani Taliban's leader as the government prepared to invite him to hold peace talks, and another outside the tribal region. But the U.S. has shown no willingness to abandon the program. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Racism threatens to drive business owner out of town

Manitoba. Restaurant owner Thea Morris says she plans to leave the space by the end of December

For the second time in several months, a restaurant owner in the small Manitoba community of Morris says she is being chased out of town by discrimination.

Thea Morris, the Jamaican-born owner of Thea's Diner, said Wednesday she has received an email referencing the Ku Klux Klan and has been told by one of her customers that people are avoiding her business because she is black.

And since the KKK email, some customers have been behaving strangely, she said.

The town of Morris

"One older gentleman told me the reason people were not coming into my restaurant was because of my colour."

Thea Morris, the Jamaican-born owner of Thea's Diner

People who appear to be in their 50s and very well dressed come in, in groups of two or three, and quickly leave.

"They'll come in and sit down and order their beverage to start, and by the time you'd take the beverage to them, they would get up and walk out."

Morris opened her diner in June, in the exact same spot that used to house Pots N Hands, which was run by a gay couple.

Pots N Hands owner Dave Claringbould and his partner closed down in April. He said they were subjected to homophobic slurs.

Morris, who lives in Winnipeg, said she had hoped things would be different for her. Business was good in the summer, but customers mostly stopped coming at the end of August, she said. Then a series of strange events had her worried for her safety.

Someone left a dead hawk on the windshield of a worker's car, she said. When she placed an online ad for restaurant staff, she received a reply from someone who claimed to be linked to the Ku Klux Klan and who asked whether Morris residents were "still chasing colours" out of town, she added. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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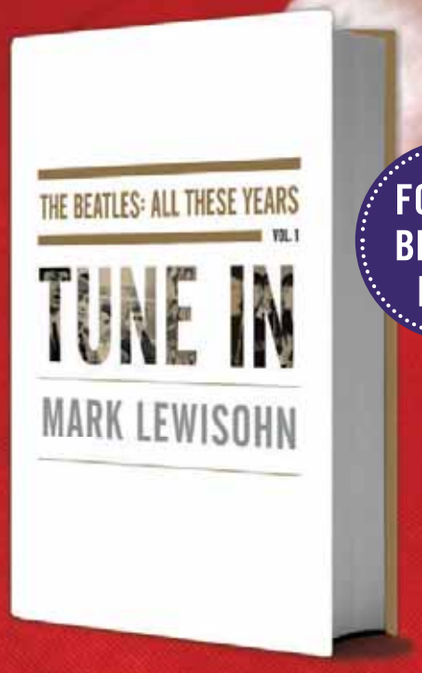
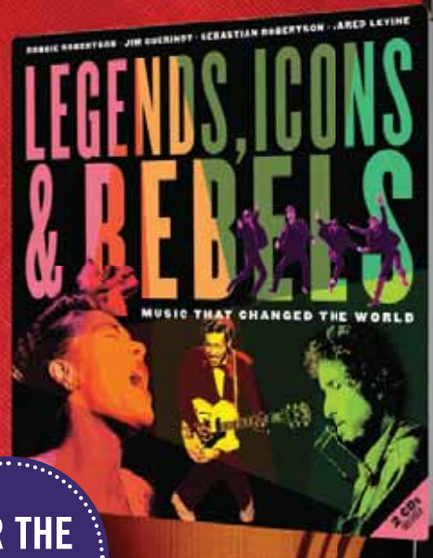


FOR THE BEATLES NERD

Tune In is the first volume of *All These Years*—a highly-anticipated, groundbreaking biographical trilogy **by the world's leading Beatles historian.**

A select history of rock with insights from Robbie Robertson (The Band), two CDs full of legendary tracks, and beautiful art – from Ella to Billie and Sinatra to Dylan, **explore the music that changed the world!**



FOR THE ROCKER

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Ava Martin zip lines over an alligator lagoon at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm. BRENDAN FARRINGTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Old zoo goes to new heights

Take a ride on the wild side. One of Florida's oldest tourist attractions brings in adrenalin junkies with obstacle course

I was slowly crossing a swinging log bridge when I paused, sensing the alligator 12 feet below was staring at me.

The water around the eight-foot gator's enormous body began rippling rapidly. A second later, Big Al let out a deep bellow, as if to say, "If you fall, you're my lunch."

I was grateful to be strapped in a harness.

The bridge was part of a 49-station obstacle course that includes 10 zip lines at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm. It takes visitors over crocodiles, lemurs, giant tortoises, vultures and, of course, lots of alligators.

"It's just a totally different perspective. You can go to any zoo in the world and look at them through the glass, but you can't go anywhere and look at them over the top of the enclosures like you can here," said Scott Brown, who designed and now manages the Crocodile Crossing at the zoo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Random biz fact of the day

16%

There has been a 16 per cent growth in part-time positions, year over year. WORKOPOLIS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 94.38¢ (-0.59¢)

Natural gas: $3.91 US (+3¢)
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Douglas Coupland

Douglas Coupland's latest novel, Worst. Person. Ever., is available from Random House Canada.

Day 19

metronews.ca/temp

Kitchen nightmares

There's no pay, but you can have all the abuse you want

Would you do a job where you weren't paid, were endlessly berated, forced to use dangerous equipment and denied proper medical help? Welcome to the life of a kitchen apprentice in the cutthroat culinary scene.

At times, it's like a real-life Kitchen Nightmares episode where even the most seasoned staff are berated to the point of tears.

"It is common for some cooks to be thrown under the bus by others because they don't want to look bad," one Toronto sous-chef explains of his early days in the industry.

IRENE KUAN/METRO

Seasonal work

Santa: The ultimate temp

Seasonal work as Santa pays up to $100 an hour, according to a PayScale survey. But all that non-stop cheeriness can take a toll. One Santa told the New York Post he wasn't able to leave his chair to go to the bathroom and got hit in the head with a frying pan by a scared child.

VAWN HIMMELSBACH/FOR METRO

Temp Hits an All-Time Low

Do you have a special place you go to when you're at an all-time low? Some people have a place, me I just drive and drive, past the strip malls, past the light industrial zones and past the fallow fields. After watching Kyle enter the refinery I began thinking of the world and how it's changed, even in my short life. Countries like Greece that used to be normal countries, now gutted of their middle class and overnight turned into something new and nameless, a land with no economy but with pretty good coffee and smoking hot Wi-Fi. I got to thinking of bubbles—how all we do these days is lurch from bubble to bubble. Are we in a new bubble? Is the bubble about to burst? I'm afraid of bubbles and I'm sick of bubbles—and yet I'm addicted to bubbles. Go figure.

I drove past the under-construction subdivisions that died in 2008, their 2x4s turned the grey colour of moths. I wondered if we're addicted to the idea that society without a middle class isn't really society. I wondered if maybe back in the days of Detroit, jumbo refrigerators and the Beatles we tricked ourselves into thinking that the middle class equals the future—and without a middle class we can't see pictures in our heads of what tomorrow might be. I find it strange how politicians repeat the words 'middle class' over and over and over again, as if doing so will allow us to pretend it still exists, that it's not evaporating daily like a puddle on a road.

Night came and I was anywhere and nowhere when my phone buzzed—it was Mr. Xu—he was back in town! And he had his big surprise all ready for me at his short-term corporate lodging suite. I couldn't remember the last time I was ever happier to get a text.

I drove to The Executive Privilege Short-Term Corporate Lodging, and ran to room 307 where the nerdy but lovely Mr. Xu awaited me.

"Ah, hello capitalist lapdog. You be ready for grand surprise?"

"Shut up! I can't believe you're back!" I gave him a smooch and said, "Okay, dial me in. I am ready for your big surprise, buster."

"Apologize in advance if not good enough."

I drove to The Executive Privilege Short-Term Corporate Lodging, and ran to room 307 where the nerdy but lovely Mr. Xu awaited me.

"Show me your surprise!"

"Very well."

A dropcloth concealed what was supposed to be the main living area. Mr. Xu pulled it back and I bathed in the majesty of what I saw.

He said, "Pretty kickass sexy, don't you think?"

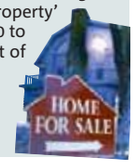
I sucked in some breath and said, "Mr. Xu, you have truly amazed me."

Before me, in beautiful rows and shelves, lay over a thousand unique pairs of sneakers that would crash eBay in a flash if they all went up for sale at once.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Random fact of the day

- DiedInHouse.com supposedly scours millions of records to find out whether someone has died at a specific address. Real Estate agents hate it because a 'stigmatized property' can lose 10 to 15 per cent of its value.



SOURCE: OMG-FACTS.COM

Random biz fact of the day

21%

That's a lot of people lying: 21 per cent of resumés state fraudulent degrees

SOURCE: NEXCAREER

The clock is ticking

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

TEMP is ... well, temporary

Douglas Coupland's 20-day novella is a pop-up project and will disappear from our website this Monday at 12:01 a.m. EST. If you've missed an instalment, there are still four days to catch up at temp.metronews.ca — before it is gone forever.

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TIPS ON (COUGH) HACKING A COLD

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Don't you hate when co-workers get over-detailed when describing their colds?

For instance, I've got a cold that started with a throat so sore that ice cream went down like broken glass and broken glass went down like jagged steel. Then it morphed into a sinus headache that I'm sure — any scientist reading can back me up — involved a small, angry man inside my head moshing to Shipping Up to Boston. And now it's the sneezy stage where I'm moulding a mound of used tissues into the mountain from Close Encounters of the Third Kind in the hopes that aliens will take me to a planet where the common cold has been defeated.

Who needs to hear that level of detail? Nobody.

Fortunately, my co-workers haven't had to worry about it because I've been on my couch for two days wishing I had a girlfriend who would come coddle me and/or kill me with an axe.

I've stayed home because I'm not one of those office heroes who somehow believes they contribute while laying comatose at their keyboard, occasionally blowing their nose with the mouse pad. I figure my one-day absence has less impact than a particularly diverting Google doodle spreading throughout the newsroom.

During my down time, I've been reading how to avoid office colds. So in the fine tradition of has-been goaltenders telling current NHLers what they're doing wrong, or failed politicians explaining how to get elected, here are my tips on avoiding office illness:

Quitting Colds, Turkey: A Guide to Office Health

- Hand sanitizer is a misnomer, and can be used all over your body. Stepping under the wall dispenser and acting out a Miley Cyrus video until you're saturated head to toe will keep you disinfected AND keep your co-workers at a good distance for the rest of the day. Win-win.
- Licking your workspace clean hurts as much as it helps.
- Remember that Vitamin C only works in conjunction with magnetic bracelets, garlic, echinacea and, sure, why not, Reiki.
- Though many people use sanitizing sprays, remember nothing gets your keyboard clean like dropping it into a bucket of water.
- Keep your hands clenched as fists so that every time you touch your face you punch yourself.
- A large hamster ball is probably not a practical way to cordon yourself off from co-workers, but it would be awesome.
- Remember that in the bathroom, a 15-second, hot-water scrub is absolutely necessary when somebody is watching. If you think you're alone, waving your hands under lukewarm water for a second is fine. If the only other person is in a stall, just running the water is often enough to complete the illusion.
- Cough in the face of people who are already sick, because what's the harm?

And those are my tips. I hope you found them helpful, particularly my co-workers, because I'm coming in today. Sorry. On the upside, you're not going to hear any details about my cold. Cough, cough, ahem.

ZOOM

Here, let me give you an arm with that

COURTESY DYSON

Man and machine get a little cosier

Think super-human strength is reserved for the big screen?

A team of engineers are encouraging you to think again after they developed the Titan Arm — a battery-powered robotic arm that gives users an extra 40 pounds in strength, and functions to rehabilitate those with back injuries by helping them to rebuild muscle and motor control. **METRO**

Dyson award winner

- The arm recently won the 2013 James Dyson Award, beating out 650 other projects from around the world.
- The team wins $45,000 to help commercialize their idea, with an additional $15,000 going to their school.
- jamesdysonaward.org

Inexpensive design

"Titan Arm is obviously an ingenious design, but the team's use of modern, rapid — and relatively inexpensive — manufacturing techniques makes the project even more compelling."

James Dyson said of the $2,000 prototype, which is significantly less than similar exoskeletons that run $100,000.

Tech advances make life easier

A team of four University of Pennsylvania mechanical engineering students spent eight months creating it.

The arm's shoulder is made of three joints that mimic the rotation of a human elbow, allowing for free range of use.

Plus it contains sensors that track motion and relay data to doctors for remote prognosis. **METRO**

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

With Wi-Fi popping up everywhere from underground subways to in-flight planes, there's more reason to put your apps to work. Once the domain of cash-strapped students, texting over Wi-Fi's been gaining popular ground (cause who doesn't like saving money on their phone bills?). Before your next flight or trip underground, give these a try.

CONTRIBUTED

WhatsApp:
Works on Apple or Android phones, WhatsApp is among the most popular and lets you send texts (including pictures) to your other 'whatsApp friends.' Only downside is, you have to convince all your pals to get the app, too.

Viber:
Similar to WhatsApp, but lets you send audio, video and even make VoIP calls, too. Perfect for long distance pals.

Zipaclip:
For those who need a little more bandwidth for their texting needs, Zipaclip (as it sounds), lets you zip videos up to five minutes long, so you're no longer restricted to texting 30 second videos. Also, keeps them secure. Just in case.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: @thehappycity book says urban design that fosters social ties makes for a happy city. What makes your city a happy one?

@Canucklehead_ca: An ample supply of beer and .... umm, I .... I'll have to get back to you on this.

@Lowpass: being able to walk everywhere and the restaurants, bars and other venues that come with that.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

Comments

RE: When A Stalker Strikes Online, published Nov. 26

I'm appalled the police can't do anything faster or sooner. Can't believe what this poor woman has been through, first with her brother's suicide and now this. It's just awful. This stalker should be prosecuted so they can't follow through with their threats. **KH posted to metronews.ca**

Hiding behind a computer to threaten someone shows you're a real wimp, pretty pathetic and probably a low life. **turtles have a say posted to metronews.ca**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: vancouverletters@metronews.ca

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 32

Read the list, check it twice, then pick to be naughty or nice

Coming events. From warped takes on mall Santas to traditional shows like The Nutcracker, there is lots to do over the holidays

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

This just in: there are only 27 shopping days until Christmas. That, of course, means that I have 26 more days to prepare for my last-minute shopping adventure, which kicks off after work on Dec. 24. Of course, you don't have to celebrate Christmas to embrace the holiday spirit. And there's plenty to do around town in the next month to help get you get into that warm, fuzzy, rum-and-eggnog-induced hug. So pull on that heinous-looking Rudolph sweater and power up his battery-powered nose, here's my annual Extraordinarily Brief List of Things to do Around Town for the Holidays.

The Santaland Diaries
David Sedaris-powered one-man show starring Toby Berner as an Elf at Macy's Santaland. I saw this last year with Ryan Beil in the role and it was hilarious. If you like irreverent humour, check this one out. You may never view a mall Santa the same way. It runs until Dec. 21 at the Arts Club's Revue Stage on Granville Island. Tickets are $29 and $39. Visit artsclub.com for more.

Handel's Messiah
A holiday favourite presented by the Bach Choir and accompanied by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Dec. 14 (8 p.m.) at the Orpheum. More information at vancouverbachchoir.com.

Mrs. Claus' Kitchen
I've often thought that Mrs. Claus never got enough credit for her role in Santa's very successful worldwide delivery business, and it appears I'm not the only one. Here's a fresh, family- friendly holiday musical about the underappreciated Mrs. Claus, who discovers a magical recipe for drawing families together. Featuring elves, laughter, song and dance — and a chance for the audience to get "hands on" for a Claus. It runs from Dec. 11-21 at Presentation House in North Vancouver. More at phtheatre.org.

The Nutcracker
Keep your dirty jokes to yourselves, gentlemen, for this is a family publication. Ballet B.C. presents Alberta Ballet's production of The Nutcracker, with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 28-30 and Dec. 29 and 31 at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Bonus: it features more than 100 young dancers (between 8 and 15 years old) from the Lower Mainland. Check out balletbc.com for more information.

Have a wonderful holiday season, everyone.

Toby Berner stars as an elf in David Sedaris' The Santaland Diaries. It returns to the Arts Club's Revue Stage on Granville Island until Dec. 21. DAVID COOPER/ARTS CLUB

SCENE

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While my guitar gently weeps: Book shows off rock 'n' roll's tear-jerkers

Call her Baby. 108 Rock Star Guitars book celebrates beloved instruments and their battle-axe beauty

Sometimes, a picture is worth a thousand songs.

The supersized book 108 Rock Star Guitars (Glitterati Inc.) demonstrates that six-stringed instruments owned by celebrities and virtuoso sidemen can look as good as they rock. The 17-year undertaking by photographer Lisa S. Johnson partly benefits the Les Paul Foundation. Paul, the Rock Hall musician-inventor, wrote the foreword before he died.

Not a guitar geek? Don't fret.

Whether you define "pickup" as a truck, a dating technique or a guitar part, you can revel in the glitz-and-grit world where these prized possessions reside. The instruments (one's named Baby) evoke tender talk from macho musicians. But some of these battle-axe beauties have seen more action than a roller derby queen: They bear the gashes and sweat stains to prove it.

The author, who grew up in a musical family, underscores musicians' emotional attachment to their instruments. "I don't believe any serious musician feels that his instrument is an inanimate object," Tom Scholz of the group Boston tells Johnson.

Steve Vai, who went solo after playing with Frank Zappa's band, once described his guitar as "the voice of my heart" in moments of depression, euphoria and "divine love. ... I have cried, screamed, prayed and bled through that instrument."

The book lauds the instrument-makers, called luthiers, and the techs, along with the guitars.

Pawnshop wallflowers blossom into unbridled stardom. There are kaleidoscopic, patriotic and wildcat patterns; gorgeous maple and mahogany; and delicate carvings of leaves and acorns.

Some seem to revel in musical masochism, like Slash of Guns N' Roses' cigarette carelessness. As the story goes, the guitarist was "one with the music" while accidentally inflicting a "charred reminder of rock 'n' roll nirvana" on his guitar.

John Rzeznik (Goo Goo Dolls) resurrected a broken Stratocaster into a 4-string. The word "OUCH!" is splayed over its torso; it's now named Halfcaster.

"I was amazed when I threw the guitar in the air and the top portion split right off," Rzeznik recalled via email. "I had my guitar tech take it to a luthier in L.A. who sanded off the rough edges and fixed the electronics.

"I used it on a song called Big Machine for a couple years after that. Surprisingly, the tone didn't really change; it was a cheap guitar that didn't sound that great to begin with. Ha ha!"

The appreciation of instruments as visual art is an age-old concept. They "may evoke status, identity, or indicate events — sacred or profane," comments J. Kenneth Moore, the Frederick P. Rose curator in charge of the Department of Musical Instruments at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. "They become sounding, tangible works of art — telling many stories of the life and times of those who used them," he said.

A double-neck owned by Cheap Trick's Rick Nielsen has a quirky folk art feel. Its two-pronged top forms the legs of Nielsen's upside-down caricature. The figure, named Uncle Dick, displays a thumbs-up, but his expression looks maniacal.

When Mom made young Nils Lofgren a Nehru jacket and bell-bottom pants out of drapes, he proudly stuck leftover fabric on his guitar so it matched his new suit.

The book also features a famous, battered Fender Esquire owned by Lofgren's boss, Bruce Springsteen.

Willie Nelson's Trigger, named for movie-cowboy Roy Rogers' horse, bears dozens of autographs, including Leon Russell, Roger Miller, Kris Kristofferson, Gene Autry, Waylon Jennings and Johnny Cash. Trigger's top is worn clear through; Nelson chooses to leave it that way. "The two of them," notes the book, "continue to mature together." Life partners in perfect harmony.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

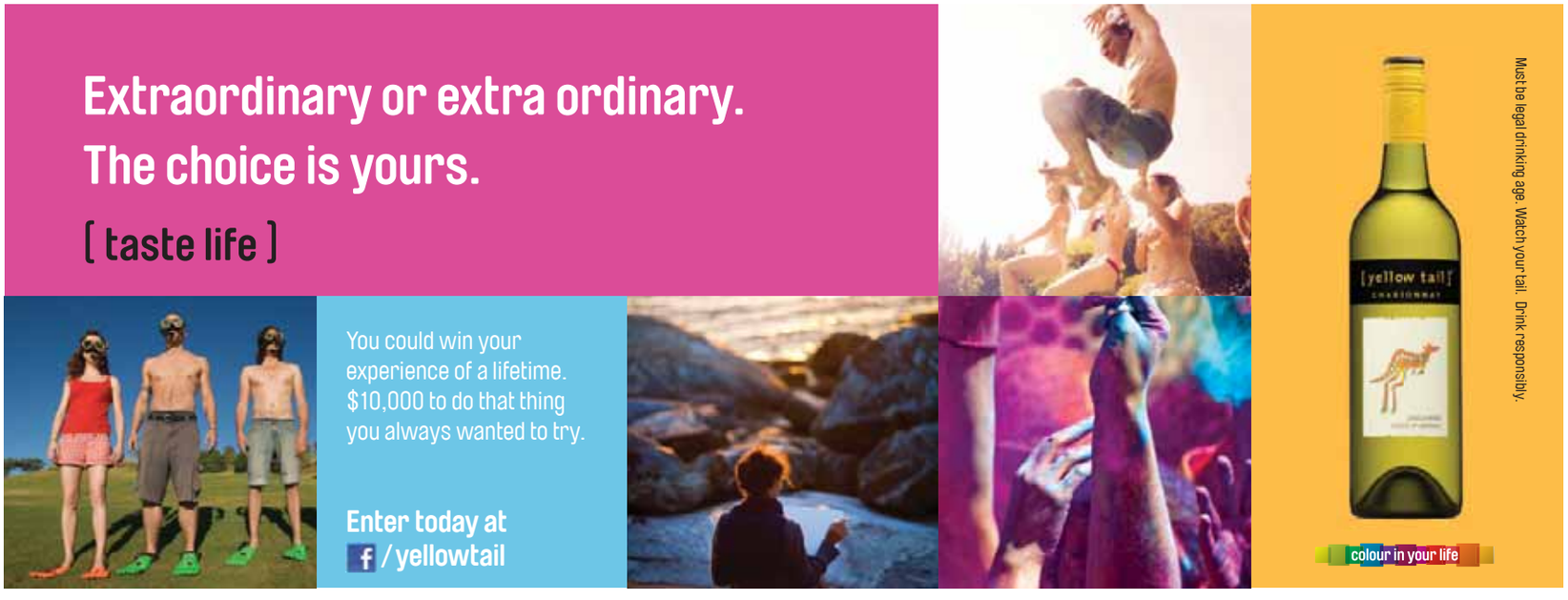
Styx's James 'J.Y.' Young's guitar bears an elaborate carving of Cerberus, ancient mythology's three-headed guard dog of the underworld. It's featured in Lisa S. Johnson's new book, 108 Rock Star Guitars. ALL PHOTOS LISA S. JOHNSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ticket to rock 'n' roll heaven

Activist-musician Tom Morello (Rage Against the Machine) scrawled jarring jargon over drawings of happy hippos on his axe.

Willie Nelson's guitar, Trigger, has a hole worn through it, and is inscribed with dozens of autographs.

ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons' guitar is covered with fake fur.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J.J. Abrams: Director, producer and novelist?

Jack of all trades.
Director's first novel, S., is more than just your typical book

EMILY LAURENCE
Metro World News

J.J. Abrams' S. tells two parallel stories at once. GETTY IMAGES

When J.J. Abrams conceived the idea for S., he knew there was only one way to tell the story — and it wasn't onscreen. There would be no special effects or big-name actors. Abrams felt that the only medium that would work was a good old-fashioned book.

"It all started in LAX when J.J. found a paperback book," co-author Doug Dorst tells Metro. "Someone had written a note to whoever was going to find it." The note got the gears in Abrams' brain turning, and he came up with the idea of telling a story within a story.

S. is not your average book. The pages look old and worn, with scribbles all over the margins. There are inserts of photos, postcards and letters tucked into the pages. It's presented as a novel called Ship of Theseus written by V.M. Straka. But the notes and inserts tell another story, between a female college senior and a male graduate student who pass the book back and forth, leaving notes to each other.

Since writing a novel is a bit different from writing a script and Abrams was, you know, busy, he enlisted the help of acclaimed writer Dorst. "We spent the better part of a year talking about the characters, why they would pass the book back and forth to each other and the context of the notes," Dorst says. "Abrams told me, 'Go, run with it.'" Dorst would pass each chapter off to Abrams, who would then weigh in.

Creating S.

"There's a ridiculous amount of detail in the book."
Doug Dorst, Abrams' co-author

Telling two parallel stories with all the extras was no easy task. "I didn't actually have a great system of keeping track of it. It was a lot of scribbled notes and keeping a lot of it in my head, which is not the most efficient way to work."

Despite not having everything figured out, Abrams and Dorst were on the same page (metaphorically speaking) the entire time. Though Abrams is familiar with screenwriting, where everything is mapped out beforehand, he adapted to the novel-writing process, letting the story unfold as it was being written.

So, are Abrams and Dorst hoping their book will inspire people to forgo their Kindles and go back to buying hardbacks? "I just want people to read!" Dorst laments. "I don't think one form has to win out over the other."

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Kate Bosworth takes on the challenge of playing a drug-addicted mom

Stripped down. In Homefront, Bosworth wanted to show vulnerability, not just a villain

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Kate Bosworth wasn't going to take the easy route in approaching her character for Homefront. She co-stars as a meth-addicted mom who sets her loose-cannon brother (James Franco) after Jason Statham's retired DEA agent after their kids get into a schoolyard brawl.

On a happier note, Bosworth got hitched this summer to filmmaker Michael Polish, and she couldn't be more satisfied with their home life.

The last time we spoke, we talked a lot about working as a producer as well as an actress to get projects going. How has that been going?
Well, I produced a wedding (laughs). Joking aside, I mean my life changed when I met my husband because he's a filmmaker, so our life is a constant production of films, and he also shoots a lot of my campaigns involved with the fashion side of things that I design. He sees the product that I've designed and he thinks about what that campaign will look like and what the films will look like for it. So it's a continual creative household. When you have your partner, it's a fast track to things.

In Homefront, you're playing a fairly complex character who's actually a fully rounded human being, which you don't see a lot in action fare.
That was the challenge. I get asked a lot if the challenge was the physicality, and I didn't think twice about portraying someone and being truthful to how she would look. That strip-down was something that was required by the character and how she behaves and the abuse that she does to herself. The challenge for me was to maintain her dignity throughout the movie and not strip her of it even when she's unsympathetic and selfish and has terrible behaviour. I know James kind of approached his "villain" character similarly in that when we were standing in front of each other it wasn't "the villain and the drug addict," it was a sister and a brother. There's that vulnerability that was really important to both of us for the characters, even though they do despicable things.

Kate Bosworth as Cassie Klum and James Franco as Gator in Homefront. CONTRIBUTED

Well, she is a drug addict.
Sure, but there's an easy pitfall to say, "She's a drug addict, oh well." There's this kind of face value that you can easily fall into. The challenge was to make sure that the human side to her was present at all times as well as the drugs.

You have that great moment when she realizes the enormity of the events she's set in motion. It starts off almost like a PTA squabble.
Of course (laughs). I figured that she comes in there every Monday with a problem. She's an exposed nerve, so anything that rubs up against her — depending on how much she's been using and how much she has left — it's going to effect her behaviour with people, and it normally would be explosive. Unless she's with her brother. Her brother and her kid are the two people that I thought that she quiets down with.

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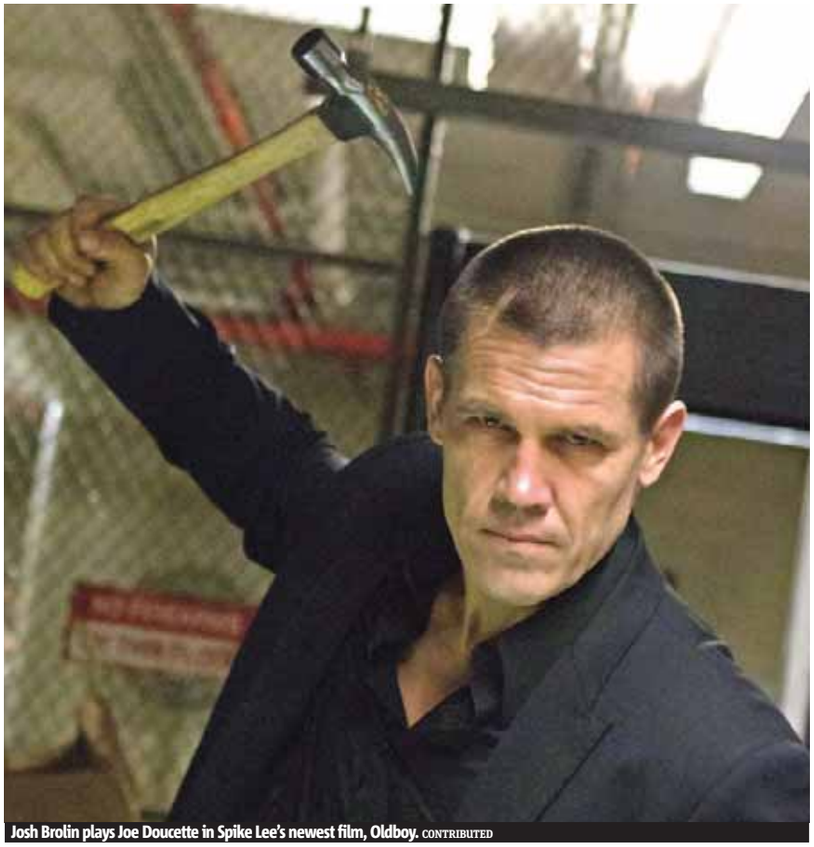

Josh Brolin plays Joe Doucette in Spike Lee's newest film, Oldboy. CONTRIBUTED

Brolin's a tough guy on and off the screen

Gulp. Oldboy star gained 28 pounds in 10 days, then lost it all again for role in gritty thriller

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

The catering staff at the press junket for Spike Lee's update on Oldboy has laid out a spread almost entirely made up of different kinds of dumplings, and Josh Brolin does not think that's very funny. (The dish is featured prominently in the film as one of the only things Brolin's character is allowed to eat during his mysterious 20-year imprisonment.) "I ate, I'd say, probably 200 dumplings or something like that," he says.

Oldboy asked a lot of Brolin's body in that his character goes from a bloated alcoholic to a lean and mean tool of vengeance after his imprisonment. Of course, he didn't have 20 years to pull off the transition. "It was more about water retention, so I gained 28 pounds in 10 days, and then I lost 22 pounds in two and a half days. And then going through that and all the cramps of that, I was rehearsing the fight at the same time, which was not smart. So I pulled a lot of muscles and stuff that I'm still dealing with now."

That fight he's talking about is quite a doozy, an update on the original Korean film's single-take tracking shot of the film's hero taking out an army of goons with just his bare hands and a carefully deployed hammer. So obviously for the remake they had to up the ante a bit.

"That was five weeks of prep, and it was difficult, to say the least," Brolin says. "The fight, I think, is at least three times longer than the original fight. I was having a really tough time in the beginning, and then I panicked. And then I started working out a lot — like two hours in the morning and two hours at night between 12-hour days. So I wasn't sleeping a lot, which I think lent to the movie, too, because I was more emotional, I was more on edge, I felt more exposed, vulnerable, whatever."

That level of self-abuse paid off, apparently. "We did it in seven takes, and the seventh take was the one," he remembers. "I walked away after that and had a little moment to myself, had some tears and was just happy that a 45-year-old dude was able to pull that off. It was a geriatric moment that I had."

Worth the pain?

"I'll never do it again because it killed my body."

Josh Brolin
On losing weight while training for fight scenes in Oldboy

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Alec Baldwin

Baldwin loses his talk show but is still 'half' defiant over anti-gay slurs

Alec Baldwin has lost his talk show, which was officially cancelled by MSNBC in the wake of multiple controversies involving the former 30 Rock star, but Baldwin is still looking to set the record straight about what he may or may not have said to a photographer when he used an anti-gay slur. "I dispute half the comment I made," Baldwin tells the website Gothamist. "'F—t' is not the word that came out of my mouth. That I know. But you've got the fundamentalist wing of gay advocacy — (GLAAD communications VP) Rich Ferraro and (blogger) Andrew Sullivan — they're out there, they've got you. Rich Ferraro, this is probably one of his greatest triumphs. They killed my show. And I have to take some responsibility for that myself."

Jennifer Love Hewitt

Hewitt's baby-marriage double kept on down low

Jennifer Love Hewitt likes to keep things quiet. The former Ghost Whisperer star gave birth to a daughter, Autumn James Hallisay, on Tuesday, and her rep used the birth announcement to sneak in the fact that Hewitt has also quietly married fiancé Brian Hallisay. "Jennifer Love Hewitt and her husband, Brian Hallisay, are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter," her rep tells Us Weekly.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Thanksgiving holiday conversations: The celebrity version

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

What do the rich and famous do over the American Thanksgiving break? I have a feeling they are doing something fabulous and not doing what we do — hanging out in the townie bars in our hometown drinking cheap domestics with people from high school.

However, what if they did? For this special edition of The Word, Metro staffers imagined what kind of discussions the rich and famous have at their hometown hangs.

"Oh ... Kelly and Michelle ... Hi! Um, how long have you guys been bartending here?" **— Beyoncé**

"So, do you text?" **— Anthony Weiner**

"I don't know, y'all. Have I made enough of a statement this year that I am finally a woman?" **— Miley Cyrus**

"Guys, I know it's not like me to walk away from a fight, but if I get nabbed one more time for beating somebody up, I'll go away for a long time. Now, let's just chill, get another pitcher of Miller Lite and play some Keno." **— Chris Brown**

"Oh man, bro, last time I saw you, we were, what, in middle school? Can't believe it's been five years!" **— Justin Bieber**

"Wait, what?! You prefer the dark meat? Oh, hell no! Bartender, keep the White Russians comin' sugar ... " **— Paula Deen**

Frankie Muniz ALL IMAGES GETTY

Frightened Muniz suffers another mini-stroke

At 27 years old, Frankie Muniz isn't having the best time, health-wise. "Almost a year to the day, I experienced another mini-stroke," Muniz posted to Twitter. "Hopefully that will be the last. Miserable." A mini-stroke consists of tiny lapses in blood flow to the brain.

Last year he related to Good Morning America how frightening the experience can be: "I couldn't say any words," he said. "I thought I was saying them. My fiancée was looking at me as if I was speaking a foreign language."

Twitter

@justinbieber
Surfing and sunshine. Loving the Gold Coast.

@lenadunham
Secret of human existence: I totally think I'm the worst, just for different reasons than you do

@SarahKSilverman
It's all meaningless but don't let yourself get hung up on that

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

One for under the tree, and another one for me

'Tis the season to save on style. Self-shopping becoming less of a secret shame as fashionistas embrace this optimal time to buy their beauty booty

Getting up early on Black Friday for a little shopping? Doing your part on Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday, too? It's all in the name of gift-giving — or at least the guise of it.

It seems a lot of consumers are using these sales and retail events to treat themselves to a little something new.

As a group, self-shoppers are growing, says Marshal Cohen, chief analyst of The NPD Group, Inc., a consumer insight company. He puts the number at 20 per cent, up from five per cent in the early 2000s.

"I started tracking people shopping for themselves about 10 years ago. I was at a Black Friday in a Macy's in a suburban location in Long Island," he recalls. "This woman has one arm filled with a few things, maybe a dress and a few sweaters, and another with 12 items."

Guess which hand had the future presents for her two sisters and a friend?

It's a similar scene in Loft stores already this year, says Lori Leslie-Robbins, director of client experience for the retailer. "For us, the telltale sign that someone is shopping for themselves is that our fitting rooms stay busy for the holidays. She's trying clothes on, and you don't need to do that for a gift."

Leslie-Robbins overheard this past weekend a conversation between a sales associate and customer in the dressing room that went something like this: The shopper was in the dressing room choosing between a dress and a tuxedo-jacket-and-denim-jeans combo, and was taking seriously this choice of what to wear to a co-worker's at-home holiday party. When the associate asked if she'd also considered a hostess gift, the response was, "I'm not there yet."

We're certain Santa would encourage doing something nice for yourself this yuletide. ISTOCK

Because of the deep discounts, shoppers see this as an opportunity to replenish their own wardrobes and homes with less guilt than buying the new pair of jeans, for example, at full price, Cohen says. Those same shoppers might not feel that way about a gift for someone else.

He says especially the early-bird holiday shoppers are looking for the sales for themselves, while the transactions made closer to Christmas are more likely to be bona fide gifts. He can also tell by what you're buying: If it's electronics or footwear, it's probably for you; fragrance is a go-to gift item, with 20 per cent of annual sales happening in the five days before Christmas, according to NPD.

Rachel DiCarlo is a fan of the one-for-me, one-for-you theory. Jewellery and scarves, perfectly good gifts for others, are also the items she tends to buy for herself.

Last year, she couldn't resist the initial necklaces she was buying for so many others. "I was getting the Ls, the Js, and I thought, 'I should buy an R.'"

She is the vice-president of public relations at American Eagle Outfitters and, in her office, everyone tends to dress similarly.

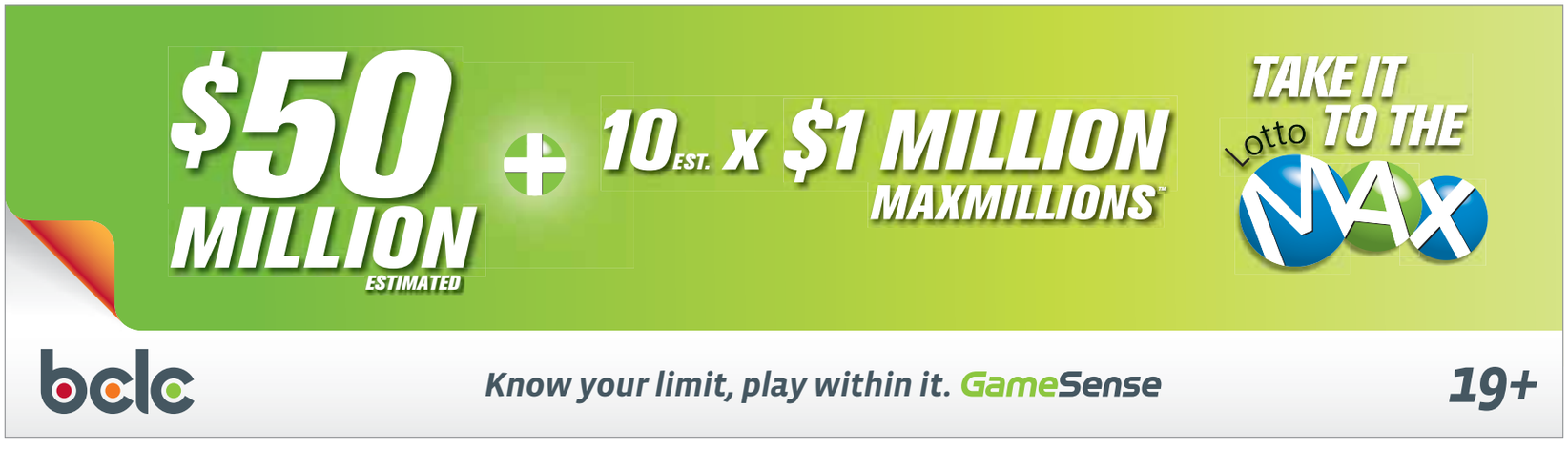
So, she says with a laugh, it makes sense to get for herself the shirt or accessory she is getting for the members in her team — although, everyone gets a different colour.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You deserve a good deal

Many of the self-purchases Loft's Leslie-Robbins sees in stores are those that solve problems or have a focused end use — this tends to alleviate that pang of guilt, she says.

- A woman needs to buy herself the items no one else will buy her, right? muses Robin White, global press director of beauty brand Philosophy. There's also "the stuff you need" and "the stuff you enjoy buying."
- She takes pleasure, for example, in a new tube of eye cream — it really makes her day, she says, but it's not quite what she'd want to unwrap Christmas morning. That makes it the perfect self-purchase.



Tartan it up for the holidays

Plaid is one of the most popular patterns during the festive season — the clean lines look great in both modern and traditional interiors, and they're a perfect way to add variety to a room with solid colours (so long as you remember to never mix plaids together). From tabletop items to wallpapers, there's a wide array of accessories that bring a touch of the old clan to your home.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Add some old-school style to your work commute. Plaid Lunch Box and Thermal Carafe, $40 each, crateandbarrel.com.

Subtle grey plaid adds modern sophistication to walls. Audrey Charcoal Wallpaper, $85 per roll, grahambrown.ca.

Punchy colours modernize the season's favorite pattern. Lord & Taylor Buffalo Plaid Duvet Cover, $69-89, thebay.com.

Scotch and soda never went down so easy. PC Tartan Glasses, four for $9, Real Canadian Superstore.

Drive in style while keeping your hands toasty. Plaid Steering Wheel Cover, $15, canadiantire.ca.

Add bright colours underfoot. Modern Plaid 5x8 foot Wool Rug, $450, cb2.com

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Usher in the holiday baking season with rich Lemon Walnut Bars

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup large-flake rolled oats
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup unsweetened shredded coconut
- 1/2 cup ground walnuts
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 300 ml can condensed milk (about 1 1/4 cups)
- 1/2 cup lemon juice, freshly squeezed (about 2 lemons)

You Will Need

- (9- x 9-inch) pan buttered and lined with parchment paper

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.

2. In a small saucepan over low heat, melt the butter (or melt in the microwave for about 30 seconds on high).

3. In a large bowl, combine the oats, flour, sugar, coconut, ground walnuts and baking powder. Pour in the melted butter and mix with a spatula or large spoon until the butter is evenly distributed. Press half the oat mixture into the prepared pan firmly and evenly.

4. In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together the condensed milk and lemon juice until fully combined and slightly thickened. Pour the lemon mixture over the base. Use the back of a spoon or a small offset spatula to spread the filling evenly across the base. Sprinkle the remaining half of the oat mixture over the filling.

5. Bake in the preheated oven for 22 to 25 minutes or until the top is a golden brown.

6. Remove from the oven and allow to cool completely in the pan.

7. Run a small knife along the two edges of the pan that do not have parchment handles. Carefully remove the slabs from the pan and cut into approximately 2- x 2-inch bars. Make sure to use at least a 10-inch knife to avoid cutting and dragging the knife across the bars.

This recipe makes 16 bars. ALL PHOTOS JANIS NICOLAY

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Cookbook of the Week

Get to sifting

Before it was a book filled with 100 recipes, Butter Baked Goods was (and still is) a tiny bakery in Vancouver. Opened by the author of the book, Rosie Daykin, it is known as the home of the very best gourmet marshmallow in North America.

In Butter Baked Goods, Daykin shares homemade treats and childhood favourites through instructions that are easy to follow.

Among the delicacies in the book are: Butter's Chocolate Cake, Red Velvet Cupcakes, Peanut Butter Balls and more. METRO

Classic tropical combination: Pineapple Coconut Scones

"Every day at Butter we make a different scone," writes Rosie Daykin of her Vancouver bakery in her book Butter Baked Goods. "There is no set schedule, so regular customers call us in the morning to check what we have on tap that day.

"This flavour never seems to disappoint, and when we tell them it's on the menu, they hightail it over to get one."

Ingredients

- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/3 cups sugar
- 3 tbsp baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups butter, chilled and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 cups unsweetened shredded coconut
- 3/4 cup buttermilk
- 1 14-oz can crushed pineapple with juice

Finishing

- 1 large egg
- 2 tbsp cold water
- Coarse sanding sugar, for sprinkling

You Will Need

- Cookie sheet, 3 1/2-inch circular cutter

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F.

2. In stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, quickly mix the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt on low speed to blend. Add the butter cubes and mix until large crumbs form. Add the coconut and mix again to distribute. Add buttermilk, crushed pineapple and juice and mix until almost combined.

3. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface and roll out to about 1-inch thick. Use the circular cutter to cut out 10 circles and place them on the prepared cookie sheet about 1 1/2 inches apart.

This recipe makes 10 scones.

4. In a bowl, whisk together the egg and water to make an egg wash. Use a pastry brush to gently coat the top of each scone with the wash. Sprinkle with a little sanding sugar.

5. Bake in the preheated oven for 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown. A wooden skewer inserted into the center should come out clean.

6. Remove from the oven and allow the scones to cool on the cookie sheets. Then split them open and spread with lots of butter and jam!

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Expert offers no-bull tactics to scoring best Black Friday deals

Run, bargain hunter, run. If you are brave enough to participate in a crush of crazy shoppers this Friday, you need some tips

MAJA LUNDAGER
Metro World News in New York

Braving Black Friday crowds this year? You need survival skills! ISTOCK

If you look up Black Friday on YouTube, you're bound to find a lot of videos with terrible titles like Black Friday Fights, Black Friday Disasters or Black Friday 2012 Madness. But the horrifying stigma of this day doesn't seem to scare the thousands of brave shoppers who voluntarily run with the big box store crowd, fighting for killer deals on last year's food processor.

As with all other extreme sports, you need to prepare for Black Friday shopping. We went to the best: Mark Hellmann Regouby.

Is Regouby an experienced Black Friday shopper? Not really. But he'll do you one better. He's the founder of the travel company Running of the Bulls, Inc., which puts tourists up close and personal with the animals at the annual event in Pamplona, Spain. Here's his advice for braving big crowds.

Before you go in

"We tell them … watch the Bull Run first so they can see how it works and understand the flow of the people and the bulls and make their strategy from overviewed conditions," he says. This is where the aforementioned YouTube search for Black Friday videos will come in handy. But the preparation doesn't stop here. If you were planning to hit the bottle to take the edge off of Black Friday shopping, you'd better think twice. "The No. 1 rule is to arrive sober," Regouby says. "No. 2 is to get a good night's sleep. No. 3 is to have 360-degree awareness. Always try to be aware of who is in front, behind and beside you. Really get a sense of being in the place."

Surviving in the heat of battle

"The best runners always say you stake out your territory," says Regouby. "You use your arms and don't let anybody get too much in your way. Swing your arms and keep in your elbows to make sure you've got your own space that you need in order to run without tripping."

This sounds extreme, but seriously, do you want that food processor or not?

If you go down

There have only been 15 deaths since the beginning of the Bull Run in Pamplona in 1910, but broken wrists and bloodied chins are the norm. According to Regouby, there are more falls and injuries because of humans tripping over each other than because of the bulls. We can, with some certainty, say the same about Black Friday, except that the National Retail Federation in the U.S. — the homeland of Black Friday — has only reported one trampling death: In 2008 a Walmart employee was crushed in a stampede. So what do you do if you go down?

"The most important rule of all is if you go down, stay down. The bulls are actually talented at stepping over obstacles and as long as you cover your head and stay down and don't move, they can plan to step over you."

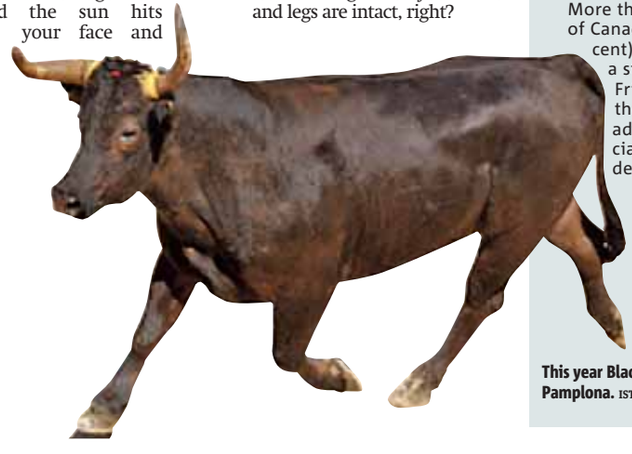
We can only hope the same counts for the herds at Best Buy and Target. Actually, we're going to say that the people waiting in the cold to buy stuff at discount prices are NOT talented at stepping over obstacles, so we advise just trying to roll to safety!

When you succeed

Regouby says that a run like the one in Pamplona is for people who want to be in touch with their own mortality and live their lives to the fullest.

"I have [run with the bulls] four times and it's still pretty incredible," he says. "You arrive in this huge arena and the sun hits your face and the air is fresh again, and you can't believe you are alive."

That sounds a bit like waking up way too early on Black Friday and shortly afterward hauling bags of discounted goods to the parking lot, realizing all of your arms and legs are intact, right?



This year Black Friday. Next? Pamplona. ISTOCK

Canadian context

While Black Friday is a relatively new shopping event in Canada, the day's quick rise in popularity among Canadians is having an impact on Canuck retailers' holiday sales strategy. Consulting firm Accenture recently released the results of a survey into the habits of Canadians when it comes to Black Friday. Here are some findings:

- **Hungry for the best deals.** Almost two thirds of Canadians surveyed plan to shop at U.S. retailers, online or in-store, on Black Friday and throughout the holiday season.
- **Boxing Day.** Is still believed by many (44 per cent) to offer the best deals of the season in Canada, Canadians feel retailers in Canada are not doing enough to compete with U.S. stores on Black Friday.
- **Go south.** When Canadians surveyed were asked when they believed they would see the best deals of the holiday season (either in Canada or the U.S.), Black Friday in the U.S. was cited by almost half (42 per cent), while less than a quarter (23 per cent) said the best deals were to be had on Black Friday in Canada.
- **Bust down the door.** More than a quarter of Canadians (27 per cent) would shop in a store on Black Friday because they want to take advantage of special door buster deals.

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Take an additional 20% off your entire purchase, between 7AM-9AM Friday, November 29th ONLY. Store hours vary, select locations open at 7AM. Check your local store for opening times. Not valid toward the purchase of Gift Cards.

After shopping, it's a wrap!

Odd-shaped gift

Booze, lotions and bubble bath are all popular gifts, but they're also round. Instead of trying to wrap it into a hot mess, try this creative solution.

What you need:
- Two pieces of coloured tissue
- Clear plastic bag
- Three pieces of coloured ribbon

How to do it:
Place two pieces of the same coloured tissue on top of two others, creating a T-shape. Lay the gift down in the middle of the tissue. Fold the bottom of the tissue upwards and then the sides over, creating a cone around the gift. Place the cone in a plastic bag and tie the ribbon just above the top of the gift. Curl the ribbon with scissors and adjust the excess paper "poof" on top. Ribbon curling tip: Look to see how the ribbon curls naturally, and drag the scissor blade down the same side to get a tight curl effect.

With these simple tricks, you'll be smiling instead of swearing at wrapping time. ISTOCK

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*Offers valid on Friday, November 29, 2013. While supplies last. No rain checks. Selection may vary by store. Offer valid in-store only. Not valid on previous purchases. See store for details. VÄRMDÖ rocking chair offer available in red only. EXPEDIT shelving unit offer available in black-brown, birch, and white, W79×H149cm only. LACK side table offer available in birch, black-brown, black and white only. Boxes and accessories sold separately. © Inter IKEA Systems B.V. 2013.

Not all gifts come in the shape of a box that's easy to wrap. Let's face it, even boxes are hard. Ever wonder how Aunt Doris gets her corners so crisp? Not sure how to wrap an awkward-shaped present? Elana White, owner of Toronto gift shop Outer Layer, shares four novel ways to wrap yours up this holiday season.

MAE BOWRING
Metro News Canada

Traditional box

Board games, shoeboxes — you're laughing because you think this wrapping job will be a cinch. But it's not. Where people go wrong, White says, is having too much wrapping paper.

What you need:
- Holiday wrapping paper
- Scissors
- Clear tape

How to do it:
After taping the paper together length-wise, tackle the sides. The wrapping paper should only come halfway up the gift width-wise, White explains. Ready for the secret trick? Fold the top of the paper all the way down, enforcing a crease on either side. That should make it easier to tuck in the sides, followed by the bottom. From there you need one small piece of tape to hold it together. Repeat on the other side.

Bag it

Have a bunch of small items that will fit into a gift bag? Bags are great but people tend to go overboard with tissue paper trying to make it look pretty, says White.

What you need:
- One festive bag
- Four pieces of coloured tissue, two different colours
- Coloured ribbon

How to do it:
Put gift inside the bag. Make a T-shape with the two colours of tissue and put the brighter coloured tissue on top. Pinch the middle of the tissue and give it a shake upside down. It will create a nice V-shaped "poof" that will fill up one side of the bag. Repeat and place the second "poof" on the other side of the bag. The trick, White says, is doing more with less. "We always train new people on how to do the poof." Tie bag handles shut with ribbon and gently curl it so that the ribbon cascades down the side of the bag.

Basket

If your gift has a theme that's too pretty to hide, a basket is another option.

What you need:
- A basket
- Newspaper
- Colourful shredded paper
- Roll of clear cellophane
- Ribbon

How to do it:
Fill the bottom of the basket with newspaper and place the shredded paper on top. This will prevent the items from falling into the basket and out of sight. Place each item on top of the shredded paper at an angle, starting from the back to the front. Cover the basket in cellophane and tie it together with ribbon toward the back of the basket. Cut excess cellophane away and gently curl ribbon.

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RICH, INVIGORATING HUES FOR 2014

The DULUX® brand has given new meaning to the words "fresh paint" with the unveiling of its 2014 paint trends forecast. The colourful palette is filled with rich, invigorating hues that represent renewal and refreshing change, says the leading Canadian paint brand.

"After four economically-difficult years, people are starting to let out their collective breath and are ready for new beginnings, which is translating into a movement towards fresh and creative colours," says Martin Tustin-Fuchs, brand manager for DULUX paint. "As a result, we'll see novel shades and unexpected combinations of colours in the year ahead in all areas of home decor."

Here is what's trending in each colour family:

Reds: The berry tones of the past few years are being replaced by vibrant reds with orange undertones. Think tomato red, a tangy attention-grabbing colour that pairs well with warm browns, spicy oranges, and golden yellows.

Oranges: Terracotta and spice hues will be all the rage in the coming year, moving away from the melon and pink-orange tones of seasons past.

Sea Isle Green

Tender Rose Red

Omega Yellow

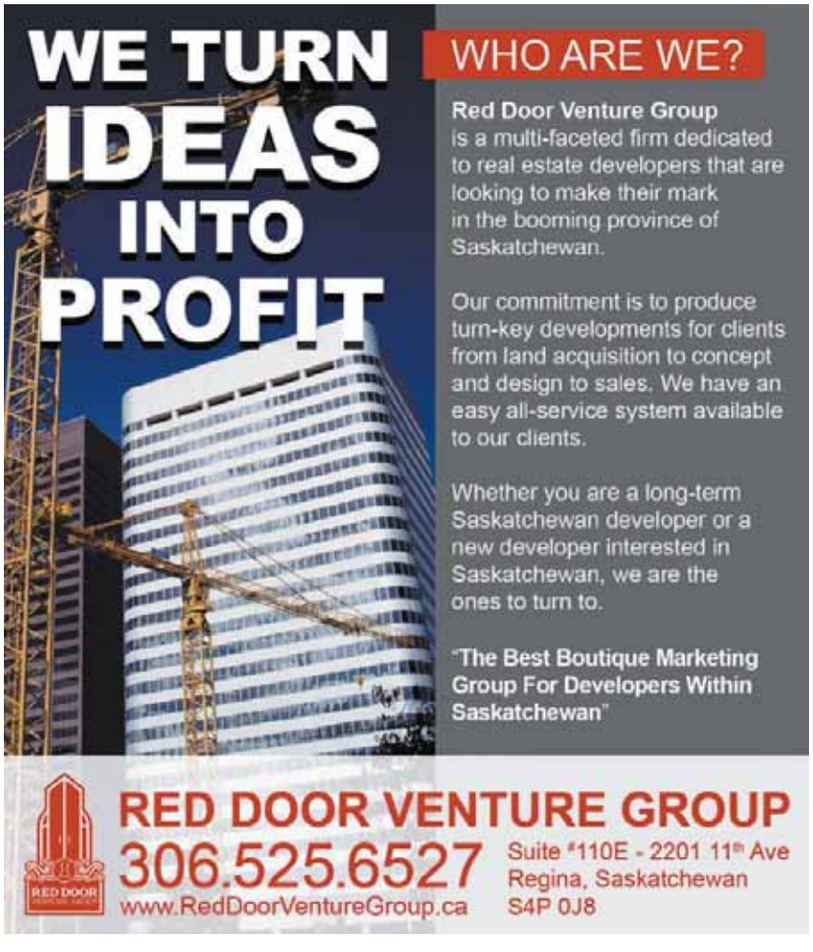
CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Yellows: Trendy yellows for 2014 range from gentle pastels to cheery brights to antiqued golds, all exuding an air of warmth and optimism.

Greens: Building off the growing popularity of emerald and teal, the 2014 greens take their cue from lavish jewel tones. Leaning more towards blue than yellow, the hottest green shade for the year is cool mint.

Blues: Oceanic blues will take centre stage in the blue family over the coming year. From deep, Mediterranean Sea-like colours to tropical Caribbean tones and the airy, ethereal hues reminiscent of the Earth's atmosphere, the new blues take on a natural dazzle.

Violets: Purples will move in two different directions in 2014, towards both red-purples and blue-purples. Those with reddened undertones are vibrant and daring, while blue-tinged violets are soft, diluted and retreating.


WE TURN IDEAS INTO PROFIT
WHO ARE WE?
Red Door Venture Group is a multi-faceted firm dedicated to real estate developers that are looking to make their mark in the booming province of Saskatchewan.
Our commitment is to produce turn-key developments for clients from land acquisition to concept and design to sales. We have an easy all-service system available to our clients.
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BRIMMING WITH PROMISE

SASKATCHEWAN HAS BRIGHT FUTURE

COLOURBOX

Real estate developers and industry insiders are watching Saskatchewan with a keen eye as the province has blossomed into the land of promise.

The Prairie province's economic growth potential should be seen as a wealth of future opportunity for the real estate sector, says Jaimey Midtdal, spokesperson for the Red Door Venture Group.

"There is real estate potential as far as the eye can see in Saskatchewan and it is potential that investors should be taking advantage of," Midtdal says. "The amount of undeveloped land has attracted real estate developers who see a bright future and burgeoning economy."

The Regina-based real estate marketing company is making the best of the province's solid economic foundations and building a variety of some of the best valued homes in the area, Midtdal says.

The company is teaming up with outstanding local developers to deliver high-quality developments across the province. The vast amount of undeveloped land in Saskatchewan has left the real estate market wide open for new and innovative real estate opportunities for developers and buyers.

"The province's solid economic foundation has allowed unprecedented growth in Saskatchewan, and the real estate market has followed suit," Midtdal says.

Red Door Venture Group works with developers starting at the land acquisition stage all the way through to the concept design and sales stages.

For more about Red Door Venture Group, or to schedule a complementary consultation, visit RedDoorVentureGroup.ca.

COMPANY GETS BID FOR LARGE PROJECT

When you are renovating a large home development, you are going to need a great appliances provider.

That's why Handy Appliances was chosen to deliver and install appliances for the 12-storey Victoria Towers low-income housing project in Prince George this year.

"We're proud to be a part of such a great program," says Lawrence Koh, project co-ordinator for Handy Appliances. "Those with low incomes in Prince George deserve a high standard of living. It feels great to have contributed to that."

Victoria Towers is northern B.C.'s largest subsidized housing project, and was bought by B.C. Housing for $7.8 million about a year ago after a fire on the fifth floor left the building seriously damaged. Renovations were completed this winter, including delivery and installation of new appliances, which B.C. Housing commissioned from Handy Appliances.

The building is now freshly renovated, with 200 new pieces from Handy Appliances from the Frigidaire Appliance line, and tenants are soon due to move in.

"B.C. Housing chose us out of a list of bidders because of our fair pricing and our flexibility with product delivery and roll-out," Koh says. "We also appealed to them because we have a direct point of contact for you to go to if you ever need help after installation. When you call us, you'll reach a real person who's happy to help you, not a 1-800 number with an automated answering service."

Handy Appliances, which has been in business in Vancouver since 1975, made it a priority to complete the appliance installation to a high standard so the appliances operated practically and beautifully for the tenants.

"We want our appliances to help residents feel elevated by their surroundings," Koh says.

Handy Appliances carries new appliances from most major name brands, and offers full-circle dealer sales, service and parts. More and more multifamily projects are coming to Handy Appliances because of the company's willingness to deliver and install the appliances, and provide any after-sales warranty service.

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"We're very service focused," Koh says. "B.C. Housing recognized the quality of our products, our sustainable procurement and our service, and we're honoured to be part of such a worthy initiative."

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STUNNING VIEWS, SHINING INTERIORS

KENSINGTON GARDENS APPEALS TO ALL TASTES

When residents first walk into their homes at Kensington Gardens, they will be struck by the views it offers — the mountains, water, green space and cityscapes stretching out across Vancouver.

But it's when they turn inward that the quality of the homes at Kensington Gardens will truly shine, says Alexa Paukkunen, sales and marketing director for Kensington Gardens.

"This development was designed by a world-class developer, Westbank, that has built other well-known developments in Vancouver, including the Shangri-La, the Shaw Tower, and the Fairmont Pacific Rim," Paukkunen says.

"Westbank has set the standard for luxury, and this will continue at Kensington Gardens."

From concrete construction, to air conditioned homes, to geothermal heating and cooling, to German imported kitchens and appliances, everything has been thought of.

Kensington Gardens homes range from one-bedrooms to three-bedroom-and-dens, and everything in between.

Practical and beautiful, the kitchens at Kensington Gardens offer contemporary cooking spaces at their finest, with German-imported Nobilia cabinetry, elegant wide-plank engineered wood flooring, durable Corian countertop, polished chrome faucets, and back-painted glass tile backsplashes.

The development's West Tower has homes for residents at every stage of life, from singles buying their first homes to families looking for room to grow, to seniors looking to downsize to a place that's still spacious.

"Kensington Gardens was designed to appeal to the tastes and lifestyles of a wide range of residents," says Paukkunen. "It's a diverse community with something for everyone."

Currently in the pre-construction phase, register at kensingtongardens.ca to be the first to know about upcoming special offers.

CONTRIBUTED

KENSINGTON GARDENS HOLDS CARNIVAL

There was an overwhelming response to the Kensington Gardens' carnival event, with more than 5,000 people from all over the community joining in for a day of fun and learning about Vancouver's most highly anticipated new development in a newly unveiled presentation centre, including a two-bedroom-plus-den display home.

This event marked the most sensational real estate event Vancouver has seen in almost a decade. The last time Vancouver had a response of this magnitude to a real estate event was Westbank's Woodwards redevelopment in 2006.

Open daily from noon to 5 p.m. (closed Fridays), learn more about this landmark community. The presentation centre is located at 2220 Kingsway at Gladstone. Look for the bright pink signs.

Kensington Gardens will be a game changer in this part of Vancouver, and is centred on the 1.5-square-kilometre area designated by the city of Vancouver for exponential growth.

For more information, call 604-620-7886 or visit kensingtongardens.ca.

NEIGHBOURHOOD IS A MAJOR DRAW FOR HOMEBUYERS

When couples or new parents are looking for a home for their kids to grow up in, neighbourhood is crucial. That's a quality that makes Kensington Gardens stand out from the rest, says Alexa Paukkunen, sales and marketing director for Kensington Gardens.

"Residents at Kensington Gardens will have parks, schools and entertainment on their doorsteps — great for kids," Paukkunen says. The area's highly regarded Charles Dickens Elementary is just a short trip down Kingsway.

For parents, the location is also very accessible for shopping and amenities, dining out and quick access to public transportation and bike routes.

"East and South Van are up-and-coming areas of Vancouver and they're growing fast," she says. "This is where a lot of young people can still afford to live, so it's a vibrant community with lots of fun spots to go for food and entertainment."

CONTRIBUTED

Another major draw for young buyers is the area's good prices. "You can still find really good deals on homes here, that's part of the reason why people are attracted to the Kensington-Cedar Cottage area," Paukkunen says.

"This area is slated to become the next Commercial Drive or Main Street. It's got a lot of character, and people are starting to realize that."

Kensington Gardens was planned to fit in with the up-and-coming community, Paukkunen says. Located on the site of the former Canadian Tire at 2220 Kingsway, the modern, master-planned community will feature three unique residential towers, a collection of townhouses and a residential podium, linked by an elevated landscaped courtyard, a new park, lane and plaza.

It will offer residents easy access to the development's retail spaces, including an anchor tenant supermarket and landmark restaurant.

"Kensington Gardens will be a master-planned community designed so that residents will have their home, their recreation facilities and their necessities all in the same block," Paukkunen says. "Parents are going to appreciate the convenience the development offers."

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A BUZZ ABOUT CHINATOWN

Creative Christmas shoppers will be heading to Chinatown, where there is a plethora of places to shop and eat for the holidays.

"Eclectic shopping and eating is what Chinatown is known for," says Alexa Paukkunen, sales and marketing director for 188 Keefer, a new condo development in Chinatown. "It's great for visitors, and even better for residents."

The historic area has been generating buzz recently, not in small part because of new developments like 188 Keefer, which are making the area more accessible for buyers, Paukkunen says.

"Chinatown has been a historical institution in Vancouver for decades, but only now is it really starting to grow in popularity. The area has certainly kept its original charm, however."

Chinatown originated more than 100 years ago as the home of Vancouver's Chinese immigrant population. Since then, it has developed a distinct personality that colours the shops, restaurants and entertainment there. Lamp and sign posts are painted red, and an ornate Chinatown gate welcomes visitors along Pender Street.

Chinatown shoppers will be able to find a wealth of gifts this winter, from trinkets and stocking stuffers that range from the traditional (paper lanterns — great for creative decorating) to ultra-modern (bejewelled cellphone charms). Walk down the streets of Chinatown on a regular day and you will smell dried spices, freshly barbecued meats and piping-hot pastries, as well as a diverse array of residents who call the area home.

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, just down the street from 188 Keefer, is a solace for visitors of every age, with many events happening throughout the year. The garden is designed to be beautiful in every season. This winter, snag your holiday gifts at their Eight Treasures Shop (sale on Dec. 20), or visit for the Mid Solstice Secret Lantern Festival on Dec. 21 that features food, lantern art and performances.

"The neighbourhood is buzzing this time of year," Paukkunen says. "It's a wonderful time to live in Chinatown."

ACTIVITIES, EVENTS AT YOUR DOORSTEP

If you have purchased at 188 Keefer, once the development is built, you will have lots of reasons to stay home for the winter holidays. Residents can celebrate in the building's nearly 4,000-square-foot private amenity spaces, which provide a range of entertainment and activities to enjoy.

Get outdoors without leaving the building on the 2,500-square-foot terrace, which features a children's play area and urban garden plots — perfect for throwing your own party, complete with hot chocolate and breathtaking views of the city.

When residents want to go for a neighbourhood stroll, they can head to any of the nearby parks, including Andy Livingstone Park with its new playing fields for softball, field hockey and soccer, and Portside Park, with its view of downtown and the North Shore Mountains.

DOWNTOWN, AFFORDABLE

A new crop of developments downtown has been making home-owning achievable for the average Vancouverite — and 188 Keefer is leading the charge.

"188 Keefer was designed with the purpose of making housing achievable for young couples and families who are looking to own where the action is," says Alexa Paukkunen, sales and marketing director for 188 Keefer.

The condo development, located on Main Street and Keefer in Vancouver's historic Chinatown, has one-bedroom-and-den homes in the podium portion of the tower starting from $289,900.

"They're perfect for singles, couples or downsizers."

Two- and three-bedroom homes in the tower portion are attracting buyers who are looking for a little more space. The tower homes feature engineered hardwood flooring, Miele and Blomberg stainless steel appliances, contemporary sink fixtures, Corian countertops, and custom back-painted glass backsplashes.

The development has 156 condos spread across 17 levels, and is now 60 per cent sold.

"What's really drawing people here is the combination of affordability and the great accessibility to downtown," Paukkunen says.

The heart of downtown Vancouver is about a 15-minute walk away, making it easy for residents to enjoy the energy of the city while being able to live a few blocks removed from the hustle and bustle of the downtown core.

There are many easily accessible transportation options, which will take residents and their guests to virtually any destination. The Main Street and Stadium SkyTrain Stations, both just a 10-minute walk away, provide access to downtown and other regions of Metro Vancouver. And the bus system is literally at the development's doorstep. The Pacific Central train and bus station is also just four blocks away and provides close access for those who need to travel farther afield.

The 188 Keefer information centre is open at 190 Keefer St., Vancouver (corner of Main and Keefer). For more information, call 604-620-2018, or visit 188keefer.com.

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An example of creative envisioning, excellent timing, progressive financing, and a key location – **188 Keefer** offers **panoramic view homes**, **luxurious interiors** and over 6,500 square feet of **indoor and outdoor amenities**.

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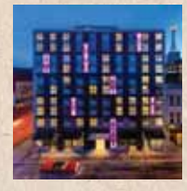
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VIEW FROM THE TOP

SOLO DISTRICT

CONTRIBUTED

Make the most of Metro Vancouver views at the top of Burnaby. SOLO District, a new master-planned community in North Burnaby by Appia Developments, is home to Altus, a 550-foot tall condo development that will be the tallest building in the city, with expansive views of Metro Vancouver, Mount Baker and the North Shore mountains.

But Altus isn't just about height — it's about community. Once Altus is completed in 2016, SOLO District will be a close-knit community of homes that are high quality, affordable, and made for families. Altus and its sister condo tower, Stratus, are now selling.

"The views are unmatched, but it's the homes themselves that really shine," says Lisa Murrell, sales and marketing manager at Appia Developments, the developer of the new SOLO District neighbourhood. "The functional design and fine finishings are what make these condos into homes."

Homebuyers will be able to customize their homes with one of two neutral colour schemes by Cristina Oberti — grigio or noce.

Every home features high-quality finishings including Italian Armony Cucine cabinetry, Kohler fixtures, polished quartz countertops, engineered laminate wood flooring and custom roller blinds.

Natural light abounds, thanks to nine-foot ceilings, seven-foot doors and large windows in the homes.

"The beauty here is more than skin deep," Murrell says. "We designed these condos with the idea that every household task should be simple. When you're cooking, cleaning, using the storage, that's when the real usability of these homes will come out."

Homes at Altus tower start in the low $300,000s and range from 539-square-foot one bedrooms to 1,709-square-foot three-bedroom penthouses.

"These homes perfectly marry affordability, luxury and practicality," Murrell says.

For more, visit solodistrict.com.

INVESTMENT INTO THE FUTURE

Sustainability is top of mind for contemporary buyers and developers are starting to take note.

"SOLO District was designed with sustainability as a priority," says Lisa Murrell, sales and marketing manager at Appia Developments, the builder of SOLO District, a master-planned community of offices, retail and residences in the Brentwood area of North Burnaby. The condominiums are now selling.

"All the towers will be LEED Gold equivalent, but one of the most forward-thinking green features that we're implementing is a geo-exchange system."

The system will provide adjustable heating and cooling in each home at SOLO District at a fraction of the cost of what it would be compared to a typical temperature control system.

This is because the geo-exchange system reduces the need for energy usage in the building, and therefore saves residents money on energy bills.

"It's a long-term investment we as a developer wanted to make in our buyers' futures," Murrell says.

CONTRIBUTED

WORK AND PLAY WITHIN THIS MASTER-PLANNED COMMUNITY

Plentiful parks, nearby schools and entertainment — North Burnaby is one of the best areas of Metro Vancouver to raise children in, says Lisa Murrell, sales and marketing manager at Appia Developments, the developer of SOLO District.

That quality is one of the biggest draws for buyers at SOLO District, a new condo development in North Burnaby.

"Many of our buyers are looking for a great place to raise their children," Murrell says. "SOLO District is a family-friendly neighbourhood with activities galore and great access to all the necessities."

In addition to North Burnaby's tree-lined streets and parks, SOLO District will have even more space to work and play within this master-planned community.

The community will be made up of 1,400 condo homes in four towers, with plentiful common green space, and 100,000 square feet of retail space.

"The master-planned nature of this community means that it's designed to be a place where residents can interact, whether it's at Burnaby's first Whole Foods, one of the cafés or longer visits in the local green spaces," Murrell says.

For residents with young children, Brentwood Park Elementary School and Madison Children's Centre are a short walk from SOLO District. For residents who are going to post-secondary school, two of Burnaby's acclaimed schools, BCIT and Simon Fraser University, are just a short ride away via public transit.

In the towers themselves, residents will get a chance to get outdoors and enjoy the amenities. Club 55 is a unique, 5,000-square-foot amenity space in the development's Altus tower. Residents can bring a friend to the rooftop lounge, or sharpen their barbecuing skills while enjoying one of the best views in the city.

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A COSY HIDEAWAY

Shop windows are decorated for the holidays, cafés are giving out samples of their latest holiday lattes, and the streets are abuzz with Christmas shoppers in downtown Vancouver.

The area is rich with experiences this time of year, and One Pacific is just a short walk from it all, says Grant Murray, vice-president, sales at Concord Pacific.

One Pacific is a new condo development by Concord Pacific, based in Vancouver's sports and entertainment district at the corner of Smithe and Pacific.

These are homes that will let residents have fun during the holidays, whether they want to go out or stay at home, Murray says.

"Homes at One Pacific give residents the opportunity to be right next to the top shopping and entertainment spots in the city, while at the same time providing a cosy hideaway that's well equipped for spending the holidays at home."

Prices start in the low $300,000s and suite sizes range from 479 square feet for a one bedroom to 1,158 square feet for a two bedroom.

When it's time for residents to chill out at home, One Pacific has all the amenities they will need, including full air conditioning, over-height ceilings and high-end interior finishings.

Buyers can choose from four interior design colour palettes and an optional double-sided fireplace. Two levels of finishes are also available — premium and smart. If residents choose the premium finishes, their kitchen will come with quartz countertops and wood veneer cabinets, integrated, stainless steel Miele appliances, and a marble backsplash. In the bathroom, marble flooring and tub and shower surrounds are simple and timeless.

"We're really proud of the fact that we can offer homes that are both affordable and luxurious," Murray says. "These are homes that are just as beautiful on the inside as they are on the outside."

One Pacific is now selling. Visit liveonepacific.com or the sales centre at 88 Pacific Blvd. for more information.

CONTRIBUTED

ONE PACIFIC AT THE CENTRE OF THE ACTION

When it's time for a night on the town, One Pacific is the place to be. The new condo development, selling now at the corner of Smithe Street and Pacific Boulevard in downtown Vancouver, is easily accessible from many of the city's most desirable entertainment spots, not to mention in the heart of Vancouver's sports district.

Since One Pacific is a short walk from Rogers Arena, B.C. Place Stadium, the Orpheum, the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, all the restaurants in Yaletown and many more of the city's vibrant venues, it's the perfect jumping off point to entertainment downtown, says Grant Murray, vice-president, sales at Concord Pacific.

The development is easy walking distance from Gastown, Chinatown, Yaletown and downtown.

"Holiday festivities are never far when you're living at One Pacific," Murray says. "This is the place to be."

Everywhere you would want to go downtown is an easy walk, bike, cab or transit ride away, Murray says, who lives downtown himself.

"It's a lifestyle bonus to live in downtown Vancouver because it's a city where you don't necessarily need a car. That's one of the things that makes One Pacific such a great choice for homebuyers — by living downtown, they're saving significant time and money on transportation."

CONTRIBUTED

But One Pacific isn't just for arts aficionados, nightlife lovers and sports junkies — it's also great for families. The new elementary school under development immediately across from the Rogers Arena, as well as the area's many new and well-maintained parks, make One Pacific a great place to raise kids, Murray says.

"We've had an eclectic crowd buying here at One Pacific. Everyone from singles to investors to couples to young families and downsizers looking to be at the centre of the action."

SPA-STYLE LIVING

Many condo developments come with amenities, but none like this.

"The amenities at One Pacific have the feel of a high-end Las Vegas spa," says Grant Murray, vice-president, sales at Concord Pacific. "It's a place to relax and feel pampered, right in your own building."

The most striking of the amenities is the swimming pool with a cantilevered glass feature that is visible from outside the development.

On the Riviera Deck, residents can enjoy the poolside lounge seating with a fire pit and cabanas, an outdoor, jetted hot tub, and a sauna and steam room.

You can even bring your friends. The Riviera Deck also features a grand dining hall, a catering kitchen and tasting bar, and a billiards and games area for your post-spa party.

Or take your party to the rooftop — even more amenities are available at Pacific One's Sky Garden.

When residents want exercise, they will have access to the neighbouring 25,000-square-foot athletic club, which will offer discounted memberships for One Pacific residents and more workout options than the normal condo gym.

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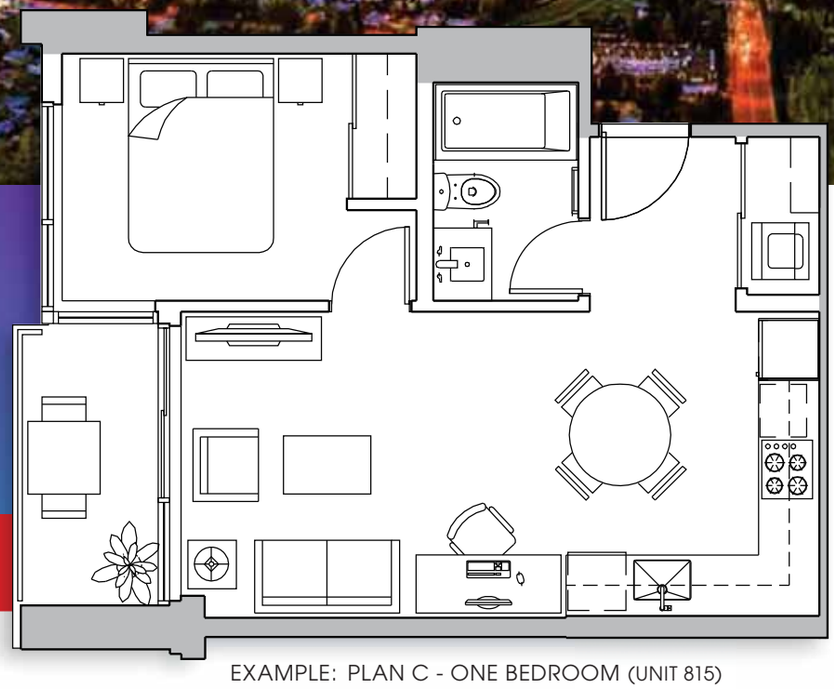

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CONCORD PACIFIC
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A BLOSSOMING NEIGHBOURHOOD

Vancouver is known for its vistas, and where better to appreciate them than at the highest point in the city — Queen Elizabeth Park. Now there's a way to appreciate the same expansive views from the comfort of your own home — at Empire at QE Park, a new development by Intergulf.

Empire is a six-floor development located across from Queen Elizabeth Park at Cambie and 29th Avenue along the Cambie Corridor on Vancouver's West Side. Like its neighbouring park, the development has a truly regal outlook over the city.

Empire residents will have views of the North Shore Mountains and Vancouver's picturesque West Side from their floor-to-ceiling windows, not to mention Vancouver's many green spaces.

Queen Elizabeth Park, itself, won't be just a beautiful view for Empire residents — it's also a serene spot to enjoy the peace and quiet of nature, and the meticulously tended garden landscaping.

The park also holds seasonal events. Every December, the Bloedel Conservatory is decked out in Christmas lights for its Jewel Box of Lights event.

"There's a reason so many people choose to hold their weddings here," says Sasha Faris, director of marketing at Intergulf. "Queen Elizabeth Park is one of the most beautiful and beloved places in Vancouver."

The park is home to every tree species native to Canada, and the Bloedel Conservatory houses a tropical garden complete with more than 500 exotic plants and 100 free-flying exotic birds.

CONTRIBUTED

Empire residents will also be able to take advantage of a real estate investment in one of Vancouver's fastest growing and most desirable areas — the Cambie Corridor. Since the 2010 Olympic Games when the Canada Line SkyTrain opened along Cambie Street, opening up a rapid transit line from downtown to Richmond, the Cambie Corridor has blossomed from a sleepy suburb into a vivacious neighbourhood.

"The Cambie Village community lets Empire residents have that access to fun, food and culture in their own backyard," Faris says.

LOCAL EVENTS

The Cambie Corridor has many eclectic shops, restaurants and entertainment for visitors and residents to enjoy. Here are a few highlights:

Nat Bailey Stadium — Get your hotdogs, beer and baseball at this neighbourhood institution. Be sure to catch the fireworks displays after select games.

The Winter Farmers' Market — Get your locally farmed fruits, vegetables and meats every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of Nat Bailey Stadium. Many of the city's gourmet food trucks are also known to stop by.

Walrus — Minimalist home items, jewelry, stationery and other items for discerning decorators or gift-givers.

Pied-à-Terre — French-style comfort food and a well-chosen wine list. A hidden gem.

Kino Cafe — Homemade sangria and regular flamenco performances draw crowds.

The Park Theatre — Open since 1941, this small theatre screens blockbusters and independent flicks for local moviegoers.

King Edward SkyTrain Station — The SkyTrain station makes the rest of Greater Vancouver an easy Skytrain ride away.

INTERIORS FIT FOR ROYALTY

To fully see the beauty at Empire at QE Park, a new development by Intergulf, residents will have to turn inward. The finishings and feel of the homes at Empire will make residents feel like they are living in the lap of luxury, says Sasha Faris, director of marketing at Intergulf.

The development is a multi-family community comprised of three condominium buildings and townhomes, and includes one-, two- and three-bedroom luxury condo homes starting at $379,900.

The LEED® Gold certified quality homes come in two elegant colour palettes by award-winning BYU Design — light and dark.

Throughout every home, quality is evident in the finishings, including durable engineered hardwood in the kitchen, bathroom and dining areas, and deep, wool-blend carpet in the bedrooms.

The kitchens provide an oasis for those who love to cook, with attractive finishings including quartz countertops with a matching accent backsplash. High-quality Miele appliances, horizontal-grain wood veneer kitchen cabinetry and soft-close hardware make food and appliance storage simple and elegant.

The sleek, undermount sinks are ideal for the post-meal cleanup.

Reinforcing the custom of making your centre for entertaining, all homes come with Italian crystal lighting above the kitchen island.

The feeling of luxury continues into the bathrooms. Stone-slab countertops, marble tile floors and frameless shower doors will inspire residents to create their own private spas.

CONTRIBUTED

Don't worry about the neighbours — the concrete construction and high-performance acoustical underlay between floors reduce sound transfer to make sure residents can enjoy themselves, with or without guests.

Central air conditioning provides residents control and comfort so their living temperature is always just right.

"The finishings on our homes live up to the upscale neighbourhood," Faris says. "Empire will deliver modern luxury."

The Empire at Queen Elizabeth Park presentation centre is located at 130-555 West 12th Ave. (at City Square Mall). For more, visit empireqe.com.

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DIVERSITY SHINES AT QUATTRO

A principle at the core of the city of Surrey is its diversity, and that principle shines through at Quattro 3, the most recently completed addition to Tien Sher's growing 12-acre master-planned neighbourhood in downtown Surrey.

"Quattro homes were built to suit all our homebuyers — people from all areas of the world and at all stages of their lives, from singles, to families with kids, to seniors looking to downsize to a home that's close to all the amenities," says Charan Sethi, president of the Tien Sher Group of Companies.

Homes in the six-storey, 164-unit development start at $159,900 for a junior one bedroom. The development also has one-bedroom, two-bedroom and loft townhomes designed to give homeowners an opportunity to live and work from home.

These are great prices for a development that's a short walk away from Surrey's revitalized downtown, including the Gateway SkyTrain Station and other public transit, Surrey's beautiful parks, SFU Surrey, the spectacular Bing Thom designed library, the new performing arts centre, and the state-of-the-art Surrey City Hall.

CONTRIBUTED

The Quattro Discovery Centre is open noon to 5 p.m. Saturday through Thursday at #114-10768 Whalley Blvd. in Surrey.

For more, visit quattroliving.ca.

COMPACT CAN BE COMFORTABLE

Some of the best things come in small packages, and the same principle applies to homes. In the city, compact can be comfortable, central and affordable, says Charan Sethi, president of Tien Sher Group of Companies.

That's certainly the case with Balance, a new development by Tien Sher in the heart of Surrey's new up-and-coming downtown, which offers Canada's smallest condos.

Balance homes provide a solution to population density and rising home prices in Metro Vancouver.

The four-storey micro-unit condo development has 56 micro units that range between 301 and 649 square feet. Prices start at just $123,900.

"The prices at Balance allow renters to become homeowners," Sethi says. "We're providing people a place to live in the heart of the action and close to where they work downtown, but at a price where they can get in early and watch their investment increase as real estate in the city of Surrey grows in value."

For more visit tiensher.com, or call the Balance sales team at 604-424-8900.

CONTRIBUTED

ENJOY JADE'S NATURAL BEAUTY

Richmond is a city with natural beauty. If you look closely within its neighbourhoods, you are sure to find some green gems.

Jade is one of those. A new housing development in the quiet McLennan North neighbourhood in the heart of Richmond, Jade is surrounded by several acres of trails, kids' playgrounds and picnic areas — green spaces for the whole community to enjoy.

Jade was designed to give residents that coveted balance of urban lifestyle and quiet green space, says Charan Sethi, president of Tien Sher Group of Companies, which developed Jade.

The 24-home development has homes ranging from 550-square-foot garden suites to 1,700-square-foot custom-designed homes. The garden suites have radiant floor heating included. Homes start selling in January 2014. People can register at jadeliving.com for VIP priority.

It's a unique opportunity for first-time homebuyers to snag garden-level suites, which aren't usually offered in that size, Sethi says.

Residents will enjoy the urban benefits of the area just as much as its green spaces. Shopping, services, restaurants and cafés are only minutes away.

For kids, two of Richmond's newest schools are just a short walk away, and for higher learners, so is Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Richmond campus.

For more, visit jadeliving.com.

CONTRIBUTED

QUIET ENCLAVE IN NEW WEST

Now is the time to buy a home in New Westminster, says Charan Sethi, president of Tien Sher Group of Companies.

With the historic city revitalizing its infrastructure and public spaces, Columbia Street may just become the next Commercial Drive, bustling with families and local colour.

That's why English Mews is a great option for families looking to buy a home. English Mews 2, a new townhouse development in New Westminster's Queensborough neighbourhood, is now for sale, with 20 homes scheduled to be move-in ready for spring 2014.

Three-bedroom townhomes at English Mews start from $399,900, a much lower price than similar homes located in nearby Richmond, which easily sell for $600,000 and more, Sethi says. There are only three homes left to sell in the final phase.

"Queensborough is a hidden gem," Sethi says. "If you miss an exit on the highway you literally miss it."

That's one factor that has kept the homes at such an affordable price, but also gives the neighbourhood its peace and quiet.

English Mews 2 families will have all the amenities at their fingertips, with schools a short walk from home, and many convenient shopping options nearby at Queensborough Landing.

The homes will be ready to move into at the end of January 2014.

For more, visit englishmews.com.

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Olympic hockey

Roster deadline moved to Jan. 7

The roster deadline for the 2014 Sochi Olympics has been pushed back to Jan. 7, the International Ice Hockey Federation announced.

Originally, national federations had until Dec. 31 to submit 25-man rosters for the tournament, which begins Feb. 12. Russia and other European countries were lobbying for a later date. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Concussions

200 ex-NHLers join lawsuit

The original concussion lawsuit against the NHL included 10 former players, and that number has already grown. More than 200 players have joined, according to lawyers Steve Silverman and Mel Owens, who are at the forefront of the suit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Esks hire Jones away from Argos

The Edmonton Eskimos have hired former Toronto Argonauts defensive co-ordinator Chris Jones as their new head coach.

Jones spent the last two seasons with the Argos and was the architect of the defence that helped them win the 2012 Grey Cup. He also served as the team's assistant head coach and assistant general manager.

"Chris Jones has paid his dues in the Canadian Football League and has earned this opportunity. His commitment to the league and record of success is impressive. I look forward to working with him," Eskimos GM Ed Hervey said in a statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Price's value on display in Buffalo

Sabres forward Ville Leino skates by as Montreal Canadiens goalie Carey Price dives backward to save a third-period goal on Wednesday night in Buffalo. Price made 24 saves, including a key stop against Marcus Foligno, in Montreal's 3-1 win over the Sabres as the Canadiens extended their winning streak to four games. GARY WIEPERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chapdelaine out as Lions' offensive coach

CFL. Team brass and offensive co-ordinator 'mutually' part ways

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

The B.C. Lions felt it was time for a change. Jacques Chapdelaine, so it's been said, felt the same way.

On Wednesday, the Lions announced they had mutually parted ways with Chapdelaine, the club's offensive co-ordinator, who was at times a lightning rod for criticism.

"We understand where we are, both he personally and us as an organization. You kind of understand it's time to move on," said Lions head coach Mike Benevides.

"The other thing that's critical, too, is timeline in our business. This affords him the opportunity to look at other opportunities that are out there."

Chapdelaine was part of the coaching staff that helped guide the Lions to two Grey Cup championships, in 2006 and 2011. His time in B.C. was cut in half, when he left the Lions to join the Edmonton Eskimos in 2007.

He was also with the Lions, as both a receivers coach and then offensive co-ordinator, when the likes of Geroy Simon and Jason Clermont — two very distinguished names in the CFL, with the former being the league's all-time leader in catches and receiving yards — enjoyed some of their most productive seasons.

But Wednesday officially marked the day in which both Chapdelaine and the Lions decided to go their own ways.

Rumours have been circulating that Chapdelaine could be in the running for the now vacant head-coaching position at Simon Fraser University.

Last week, the school announced it had relieved Dave Johnson of his head-coaching duties with the varsity football team, which competes in NCAA Division II.

Chapdelaine was a standout receiver at SFU, playing his final year for the Clan in 1982.

The search for a new offensive co-ordinator is now underway.

The big name out there is Paul LaPolice, former head coach of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, and now a football analyst for TSN.

There were reports out of Montreal on Tuesday the Alouettes have contacted LaPolice about their offensive co-ordinator position.

Benevides wouldn't discuss specific candidates.

Ryan Stanton has fit right in on the Canucks' blue-line. GETTY IMAGES

NHL. Stanton standing his ground with Canucks

If your first reaction was "who?" when the Vancouver Canucks acquired Ryan Stanton, you probably weren't alone.

Stanton, a waiver wire pick up just prior to the start of the 2013-14 season, previously had just one game of NHL experience with the Chicago Blackhawks.

As the Canucks — losers of seven of their last eight games — get set to take on the Ottawa Senators on Thursday, the beginning of a four-game road trip, the 24-year-old Stanton is third among defencemen on the team in scoring with 10 points.

Only Jason Garrison and Kevin Bieksa have more, with 11 points.

With a cap hit of $550,000 — according to Capgeek.com — Stanton has, so far, given the Canucks terrific value.

Stanton's been mostly solid on the blue-line and added some grit Monday night when he joined a scrum near the penalty box and suddenly found himself in a fight with L.A. Kings tough guy Jordan Nolan.

Nolan caught Canucks captain Henrik Sedin with a hard open-ice hit earlier in the game, and appeared to have been challenged to a fight by Zack Kassian.

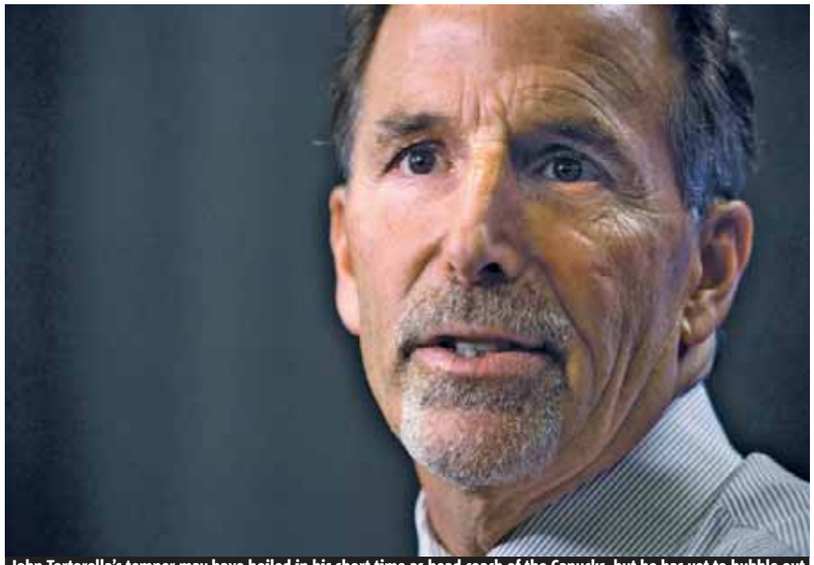
That didn't transpire. Instead, it was Stanton who found himself as the combatant with Nolan.

Stanton took the worst of it, and was cut. But he hung in there. In hockey linguistics, he answered the bell, earning the praise once again of head coach John Tortorella.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

4 SPORTS

Tortorella circa 2009 to early 2013 yet to appear in Vancouver



John Tortorella's temper may have boiled in his short time as head coach of the Canucks, but he has yet to bubble out of the pot. BEN NELMS/GETTY IMAGES FILE

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Rory Boylen
vancouver@metronews.ca

The Canucks aren't doing much very well these days, coming off a brutal six-game homestand in which they won only once. They managed 12 goals in that span, but that total is inflated by a 6-2 drubbing of the Columbus Blue Jackets. Other than that game, the Canucks didn't score more than twice in a game.

But despite this downturn, there has been no over-the-top rabble rousing from fiery coach John Tortorella. A Stanley Cup winner in Tampa Bay, Torts became known in New York for his abrupt and often harsh press conferences, in which he wasn't shy to call out his players. When he signed up for the Canucks job after the Rangers let him go last summer, he said he wanted to change that approach. Not many believed him, though.

But perhaps Tortorella really has changed. He'll always be a passionate and driven leader, so the water will boil, but so far it hasn't bubbled out of the pot. He hasn't been singling out players for subpar play after each loss, nor has he fretted too much about the team's surprising struggle to score goals, saying, "You can't beat yourself up about it because then it will turn the wrong way." These are shocking developments for a coach who once explained Carl Hagelin wasn't on the Rangers power play because "he stinks."

Much work needs to be done to get the Canucks back on track. Their power play is 28th, goals per game 19th and goals-against per game 13th. About the only bright spot is their league-leading penalty kill. You'd think the dreadful homestand would have set Tortorella off, but he's taking a much calmer approach than the Tortorella we came to know in New York.

Perhaps this has to do with the fact we're still just in November, with three-quarters of the NHL schedule to play. Perhaps Tortorella feels more secure in his first year with the Canucks. Perhaps he doesn't want to alienate his new group of players in his very first year. Perhaps he wants to show the New York Torts isn't the real Torts.

But let's see how he reacts to being shut out on consecutive nights in March, or losing three home games in a row in late February. Because if the Canucks miss the playoffs — a very real possibility even for a strong team in a deep Western Conference — it will be Tortorella who will be receiving the flak, rather than shooting it off.

NFL

Packers' Rodgers a no-go, Flynn to start against Lions

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers will miss his fourth consecutive game and Matt Flynn will become the Green Bay Packers' fourth starting quarterback of the season Thursday when the Packers play the Lions in Detroit.

Rodgers, who suffered a fractured left collarbone Nov. 4 against the Chicago Bears, practised on Tuesday but was ruled out by coach Mike McCarthy on Wednesday.

The Packers (5-5-1) have struggled without him, going 0-3-1 in that time. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

"The goal for me is just being able to move forward."

Milwaukee Brewers star Ryan Braun, who ended his silence Wednesday, speaking to the media for the first time since accepting a season-ending 65-game suspension for violating MLB's anti-drug agreement.

NBA. There's no place like home for LeBron to crush the Cavaliers

LeBron James could finally be himself. He smiled easily, joked around and blew a few kisses to the crowd.

This trip home was different than the others. There was less tension, fewer boos, nothing to fear.

This time, James almost felt welcomed.

James scored 28 points and seemed more relaxed than in previous games back in Cleveland, leading the Miami Heat to their eighth straight win, 95-84 over the Cavaliers on Wednesday night.

He added eight rebounds and eight assists in his fifth game as a visitor against the Cavs, the team that drafted him and the one he led to the NBA finals before leaving as a free agent three years ago to chase NBA championships in Miami. James improved to 11-1 against Cleveland.

Unlike his previous four visits, James wasn't the target of nonstop booing or taunts. There wasn't the hatred that filled Quicken Loans Arena the first time he came back on Dec. 2, 2010.

"It's been less and less since the first time I was here," said James, soaking his ankles in an ice bucket and drinking a post-game smoothie. "Nothing can be worse than that."

LeBron James attacks the rim against the Cavaliers in Cleveland on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dwyane Wade added 22 points and Michael Beasley 17 for Miami, which coasted during long stretches and never appeared threatened.

Dion Waiters, the subject of trade rumours, scored a season-high 24 and Kyrie Irving had 16 for Cleveland.

The Heat opened a 15-point lead in the third and responded to every spurt by the Cavs, who got within eight in the final two minutes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	25	16	7	2	69	52	34
Tampa Bay	25	16	8	1	76	63	33
Detroit	26	12	7	7	69	71	31
Montreal	25	14	9	2	67	52	30
Toronto	25	14	9	2	71	66	30
Ottawa	25	10	11	4	74	81	24
Florida	26	7	14	5	58	86	19
Buffalo	26	5	20	1	45	82	11

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	26	16	9	1	78	63	33
NY Rangers	25	13	12	0	53	61	26
Washington	25	12	11	2	76	74	26
Carolina	25	10	10	5	53	70	25
New Jersey	25	9	11	5	53	62	23
Philadelphia	24	10	12	2	52	60	22
Columbus	25	9	13	3	62	75	21
NY Islanders	25	8	14	3	70	85	19

Wednesday's results
Pittsburgh 6 Toronto 5 (SO)
Winnipeg 3 NY Islanders 2
Ottawa 6 Washington 4
Tampa Bay 4 Philadelphia 2
Carolina 4 New Jersey 3
Nashville 4 Columbus 0
NY Rangers 5 Florida 2
Phoenix 3 Minnesota 1
Montreal 3 Buffalo 1
Detroit 6 Boston 1
St. Louis 4 Colorado 1
Chicago at Calgary
Los Angeles at San Jose
Tuesday's result
Dallas 6 Anaheim 3
Thursday's games — All times Eastern
Vancouver at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Friday's games
Winnipeg at Philadelphia, 11:30 a.m.
NY Rangers at Boston, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 4 p.m.
Detroit at NY Islanders, 4 p.m.
St. Louis at San Jose, 4 p.m.
Calgary at Anaheim, 4 p.m.
Montreal at Washington, 5 p.m.
Colorado at Minnesota, 6 p.m.
Edmonton at Columbus, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
St. Louis	24	18	3	3	86	51	39
Chicago	25	17	4	4	92	71	38
Colorado	23	17	6	0	70	49	34
Minnesota	26	15	7	4	65	61	34
Nashville	25	13	10	2	60	69	28
Winnipeg	27	12	11	4	72	78	28
Dallas	23	12	9	2	67	68	26

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	27	17	7	3	83	71	37
San Jose	23	15	3	5	79	52	35
Los Angeles	25	16	6	3	67	53	35
Phoenix	25	15	6	4	83	79	34
Vancouver	26	12	9	5	67	68	29
Calgary	23	8	11	4	64	84	20
Edmonton	25	7	16	2	65	89	16

Note: 2 points for a win, 1 point for overtime loss.

PENGUINS 6, LEAFS 5 (SO)

First Period
1. Pittsburgh, Conner 1 (Ebbett, Sutter) 1:57
2. Toronto, van Riemsdyk 10 (Phaneuf, Franson) 5:09 (pp)
3. Toronto, Kadri 7 (Fraser) 11:41
Penalties —Despres Phg (interference) 5:01.
Second Period
4. Toronto, van Riemsdyk 11 (unassisted) :13
5. Toronto, Kessel 13 (Bozak) :42
6. Pittsburgh, Malkin 5 (Letang, Crosby) 8:27 (pp)
7. Pittsburgh, Letang 5 (Neal, Kunitz) 15:20 (pp)
8. Toronto, Bozak 4 (van Riemsdyk) 19:55
Penalties — Neal Phg (slashing) 1:31, Kadri Tor (goaltender interference) 3:52, Gunnarsson Tor (interference) 8:17, Phaneuf Tor (roughing) 10:42, Crosby Phg (roughing) 10:42, Holland Tor (interference) 14:45.
Third Period
9. Pittsburgh, Neal 7 (Malkin, Letang) 3:46 (pp)
10. Pittsburgh, Malkin 6 (Crosby, Kunitz) 7:41
Penalties — Smithson Tor (holding) 2:12, van Riemsdyk Tor (hooking) 3:18, Malkin Phg (high-sticking) 5:07.
Overtime — No Scoring
Penalties — None.
Shootout — Pittsburgh wins 2-0

Shots on goal

Toronto	10	14	0	0—24
Pittsburgh	17	12	17	2—48

Goal — **Tor:** Bernier (LO, 8-6-2); **Pit:** Zatkoff (0:13 2nd period) (W, 3-2-0). **Power plays (goal-chances)** — **Tor:** 1-3. **Pittsburgh:** 3-5. **Att.** — 18,660 at Pittsburgh.

NFL

WEEK 12
Thursday's games
All times Eastern
Green Bay at Detroit, 12:30 p.m.
Oakland at Dallas, 4:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 8:30 p.m.
Sunday's games
Jacksonville at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
New England at Houston, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Miami at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Buffalo, 4:05 p.m.
St. Louis at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
Cincinnati at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.
Denver at Kansas City, 4:25 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Washington, 8:30 p.m.
Monday's game
New Orleans at Seattle, 8:40 p.m.

NBA

Wednesday's results
Indiana 99 Charlotte 74
Orlando 105 Philadelphia 94
Memphis 100 Boston 93
Chicago 99 Detroit 79
L.A. Lakers 99 Brooklyn 94
Miami 95 Cleveland 84
Houston 113 Atlanta 84
Oklahoma City 94 San Antonio 88
Denver 117 Minnesota 110
Washington 100 Milwaukee 92 (OT)
Dallas 103 Golden State 99
Phoenix 120 Portland 106
New York at L.A. Clippers
Tuesday's results
Washington 116 L.A. Lakers 111
Brooklyn 102 Toronto 100
Orlando 109 Atlanta 92
Golden State 102 New Orleans 101

MLS PLAYOFFS

CHAMPIONSHIP

MLS CUP

Saturday, Dec. 7
Kansas City vs. Salt Lake, 4 p.m., EST

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You will be able to charm the birds out of the trees today but why waste your talents on wildlife when you can focus instead on getting your way on the work front? Employers won't be able to say "no".

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Not everyone will agree with what you do over the next 24 hours but do you care? No, you don't! No one has the power to make life difficult for you. So, if it feels good, do it.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Let someone you trust know that your happy -go-lucky act is just that. Once your share your problem, it won't be as bad when various options have been pointed out to you.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
With love planet Venus moving through the relationship area of your chart, you can't afford to be shy with affairs of the heart. If there is someone you fancy, let them know. Chances are they feel the same way about you.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
It's good to dream and some dreams will never come true and it's time you faced up to that fact. Never mind, there should be another great dream coming along soon.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will be rather impatient today and that may be no bad thing, especially if people you work with are dragging their feet just to annoy you. Maybe you should threaten to carry on without them.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You have the happy knack of knowing what loved ones want and will go out of your way to get it for them over the next 24 hours. Don't forget your own needs though.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Mercury in your sign links with both Venus and Jupiter today, so good news is coming your way. Whatever it happens to be, don't keep it to yourself.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Make sure you know all the facts before reaching a decision about a money or business issue. Remember too that just because someone makes big noise does not mean they know what they are talking about.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Keep things light and don't let the cares of the world get to you. Venus in your sign makes it easy to see past negativity and make sense of what to others appears senseless. Life has meaning, and it is joy.

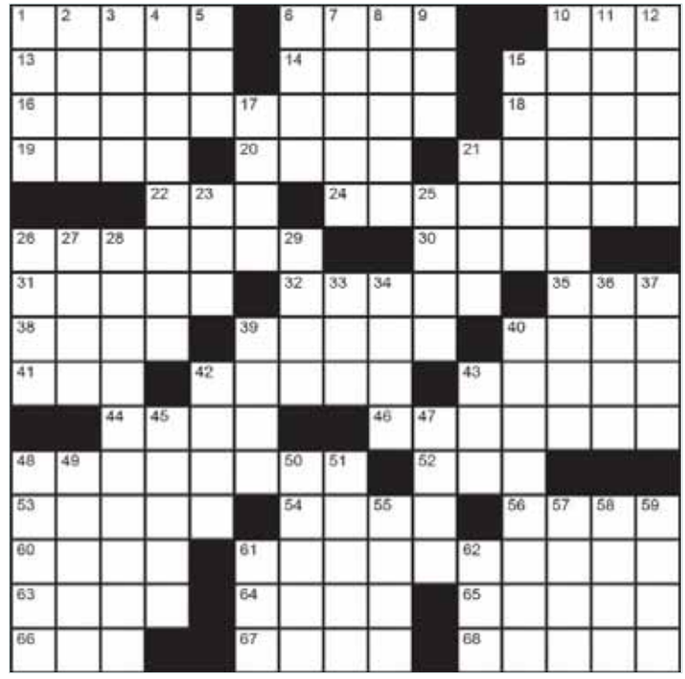
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You can persuade almost anyone to do almost anything for you today but you don't seem happy with that "almost". You may be good with words but don't push too hard. Someone will always be immune to your charms.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is an excellent time to travel, ideally with friends. The things you discuss and the things you see will make you glad to be alive in this time and place. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



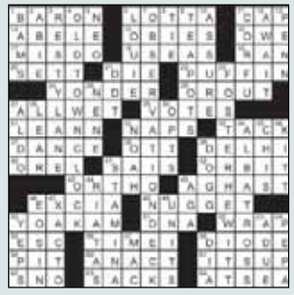
Across

1. Glisten
6. Federal force, commonly
10. Juice: French
13. Camera company
14. Margarine
15. Faxed
16. Canadian fashion designer: 2 wds.
18. Cracker spread
19. Tugboat's sound
20. Poetic nights
21. Mr. Schwarzenegger, to fans
22. Spotlight lover
24. Toronto's __ Expressway
26. Saintly
30. Border
31. __ Carta
32. Some beans
35. Li'l physician
38. Balmy
39. Casual material
40. The Dalai __
41. "...__ _ quit!" (Worker's ultimatum)
42. House fields
43. Job-giver
44. Abound
46. Canada __ for the Arts (Administrator of the annual honours at #28-Down)
48. Rihanna hit
52. Carrot, e.g.
53. "Hang Ten" Canadian singer
54. Govern
56. Sicilian volcano
60. Actress, Sharon __
61. As per #28-Down... Fiction book winner: The __ by Eleanor Catton, set in New Zealand
63. Deviate
64. Tunestress Tori
65. Capital of Belarus
66. Antiquity
67. Secret-passer's sound effect
68. Writer W.B. with Reshmi __"
28. _ _ __. __ (Prestigious honour for Canadian writers, trendy-style ...see 2013 winners at #4-Down and #61-Across)
29. Ball of yarn
33. Caravansary
34. Filing abbr.
36. Sacred Buddhist peak
37. Director Mr. Reiner
39. "Curses!"
40. Victoria's Secret apparel
42. Rock's Kings of __
43. Shade
45. Actress Ms. Procter
47. Baking need
48. Search into
49. Model
50. Ringo's instruments
51. Wrestlers of Japan
55. Itemize
57. Frank Sinatra daughter
58. Cozy retreat
59. Requests
61. Swimming segment
62. Ms. Poehler

Down

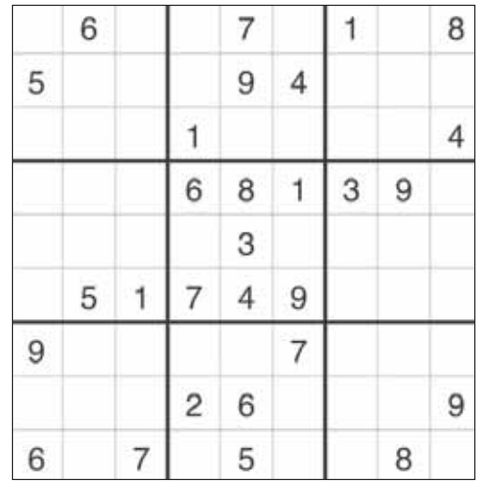
1. Jazz singing style
2. Religious 'ring'
3. Data
4. As per #28-Down... Poetry book winner: Katherena Vermette for __ __ Love Songs, set in the Winnipeg neighbourhood of the title
5. Compass dir.
6. Red __ Tea
7. Held on tightly
8. High IQ society
9. Disc in a 1990s fad game
10. The Maid of Orleans, b.1412 - d.1431: 2 mots
11. Take apart laces
12. Drive
15. Parsley portion
17. Ashton's ex
21. Tots up
23. Menu words
25. Printing quantity
26. G.I.'s weapon need
27. "CBC News Now

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

4	1	9	3	8	5	7	2	6
3	6	5	7	2	1	4	9	8
8	7	2	9	6	4	3	1	5
7	2	6	4	5	8	1	3	9
5	3	8	2	1	9	6	7	4
9	4	1	6	3	7	5	8	2
6	8	4	1	9	3	2	5	7
1	5	7	8	4	2	9	6	3
2	9	3	5	7	6	8	4	1

Today
8°/6°
Partly sunny

Friday
8°/6°
Showers
40%

Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data

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